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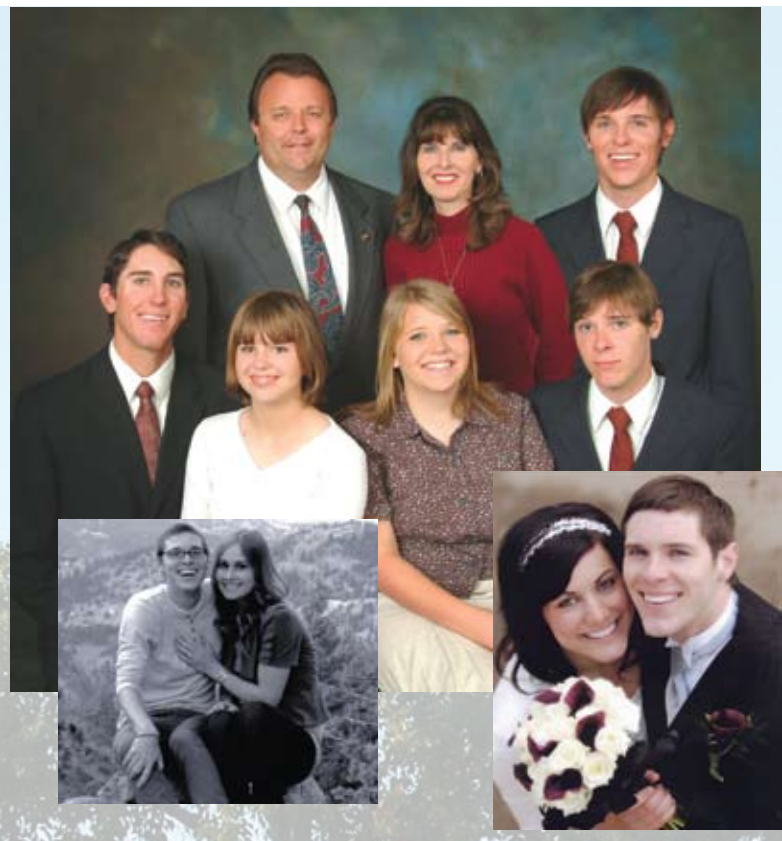

For the last six years, Thayer Verschoor has represented us in the Arizona's State Senate, earning awards and accolades from conservative groups, pro-life and pro-family organizations, taxpayer advocacy and 2nd Amendment groups like the NRA, and a who's who of conservative leaders including Congressmen Jeff Flake, Trent Franks and J.D. Hayworth. For the last two years, Thayer has served as the Republican Majority Leader, the #2 position in the State Senate and, should he be re-elected, is the favorite to be elected President of the Senate. Thayer would be the first Senate President from the East Valley in several decades.

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COVER Story

Saturday's Warrior Celebrates 35th Anniversary with Special Review & New Sequel

Thirty-five years ago, "Saturday's Warrior" audiences fell in love with the two quirky missionaries. Now, in a recreation of the landmark story, the duo again take the stage with Elder Kestler (l) played by Andrew Lewis, and Elder Greene (r), played by Brian Cota.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Now, in celebration of the 35th anniversary, "Saturday's Warrior" returns in a stunning combination of re-creation and sequel, called "The White Star."

Thirty-five years ago, the stage play, "Saturday's Warrior" took LDS audiences by storm, drawing large audiences and, ultimately, introducing the LDS culture an entirely new art form and medium of entertainment. While the new, unfamiliar endeavor opened to a bit of controversy and criticism; yet, "Saturday's Warrior" soon became hugely successful as it touched hearts, even changed lives, with its messages of love and friendship that stretch across eternity.

Those messages continued to resonate across three decades and into the lives of a new generation as the play was recreated as a video and the soundtrack was recorded for listening to over and over.

Writer and producer Doug Stewart, says the original, ground-breaking production actually began with a phone call from

Continued on pg. 8

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About Russell

- 5th generation Arizonan
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- A tradition of service, hard work and commitment to Community, Youth, Elderly

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composer Lex de Azevedo.

"I had moved into his ward in California and two weeks later, he moved out," Doug explains. That chance meeting was enough to get the ball rolling.

"He called to say he had read something I wrote and wanted to do a musical with me about our people, our culture—something that would resonate with Latter-day Saints."

Doug knew that Lex, the son of Alyce King of The King Sisters, had a long list of accomplishments, including musical director for the Jackson Five, The Sonny & Cher Show and the Osmonds.

Yet, while he was excited for the opportunity to work with Lex, Doug says the writing didn't come easy. For six months he "struggled and wrestled with it. Every version I wrote, I threw out. Six months later, I had four songs, one character, and a title; but no story. It was so frustrating."

Doug had taken a job at the BYU Motion Picture Studio and Lex called one Friday to say he was coming into town the next Tuesday. Doug, wanting desperately to have some semblance of a script to show him, again made it a matter of prayer and fasting. Again, he took up the script, but nothing would come.

"We had a little girl at the time and I sat down in the living room of our little rented apartment and said, 'Heavenly Father, what more do you require?' and it was then that the ideas just flooded my mind. I couldn't write fast enough," Doug says.

He says, as the concepts poured onto the page, every piece fell into place and "every song I had already written fit somewhere."

When Lex arrived, "I read the outline to him. He was crying and I started crying," Doug says. He says, "Later, I just walked the streets, rejoicing, feeling like something really good was going to happen from that."

Now, 35 years later, Doug says, "It's been seen by two million people. The soundtrack is on every continent," and he says, "It's become a phenomenon, and I'm just a little part of it. It has been a huge collaboration of people making it come to life."

Indeed, "Saturday's Warrior" has lived in the hearts and lives of the hundreds of thousands who have seen the show, acted in it or listened to the songs and, now, with this new production, it will speak to those long-time fans and to a new generation as well.

"Today's issues are different," Doug says, adding that with, "The White Star," "I wanted to write something with relevance for families today—a musical for our time."

He explains that the new production first reviews the original story of Jimmy Flinders, the confused teenager, who is affected by peer pressure and steeped in rebellion against his parents. Absorbed in his own life and the ways of the world, Jimmy has forgotten the promises he made in the pre-existence to ensure that his youngest sister, Emily, would be born into the Flinders family. In the review, each of the original characters is reintroduced—including Jimmy's twin sister, Pam; and heart-warming sidekicks, Elders Kestler and Green. Presented, too, are all of the original songs—including "Pullin' Together," "Circle of Our Love," "Will I Wait For You?" "He's Just a Friend/Dear John," Feelings of Forever" and "Saturday's Warrior"—with lyrics by Doug Stewart and music by Lex de Azevedo.

> "Finding Jimmy was a challenge, because the actor had to believably portray a young man, then skip ahead 35 years. He also had to have a fabulous voice."

Today's production then moves into the sequel, "The White Star," in which Jimmy (James) Flinders appears as an adult, dealing with the struggles of raising his own family and watched over

Continued on pg. 9

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Saturday's Warrior
Continued from pg. 8

from beyond by his twin sister, Pam.

"This will be one of the most unique theatrical experiences in a long time," says director, Matt Neves.

As a BYU student, Matt had performed in "Saturday's Warrior" and had fond memories of that experience. Yet, he sees even more potential for good in "The White Star."

"I wept the first time I read it," he says. "Its message was so powerful and I knew I had to do it."

It was Matt's idea to combine the review of the original play with the timely new sequel.

The songs for "The White Star" are written by Doug Stewart and composed by well-known LDS musician, Janice Kapp Perry.

Then, to make the two shows work together seamlessly, Doug and Matt knew they needed top-notch talent. "We found 16 wonderful professional actors to fill every role, except that of Jimmy Flinders," says Matt. "Finding Jimmy was a challenge, because the actor had to believably portray a young man, then skip ahead 35 years. He also had to have a fabulous voice."

They knew they had found the right actor when they hit upon Casey Elliott, a film actor from Ogden, Utah, who recently starred in a national tour of Disney's "Aida."

"He had all the qualities we were looking for," Doug says.

He says the entire experience of reintroducing "Saturday's Warrior" and producing the new sequel has been "humbling" and "powerful."

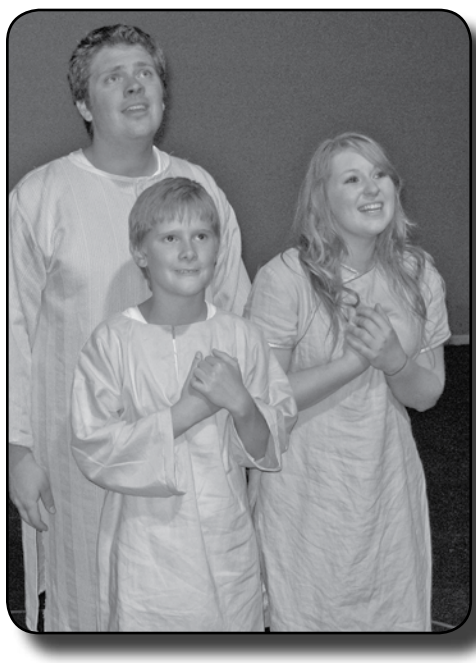
"We've had a remarkable experience with this new show," he says. "It's so powerful emotionally, the cast has a hard time even getting through it in practice."

He says, the situations, the themes running throughout "The White Star" are indicative of our modern-day world. Yet, while those situations and circumstances have changed, one thing in particular is very much the same. Just as the character of Pam in "Saturday's Warrior" is symbolic of Christ, "'White Star' is a metaphor for Christ, so, the role of the sequel as well is to turn hearts to Christ. He is the answer for all of the problems and issues we have today," Doug says.

"The White Star" premiered last August at BYU Education Week. One reviewer described it as "a story of love and caring on opposite sides of the veil." Another wrote, "Life-changing experiences propel the show… Through story and music the audience is taken on an emotional roller coaster as they discover how important family ties can be. At times it sent shivers down my spine."

As part of its eight-city tour, "The White Star" comes to Arizona, where it will be presented at Gilbert High School on August 14, 15, 16 and 18. Tickets are expected to go fast, so patrons are encouraged to buy them early. Call 1-888-35-Years, or visit LDSmusical.com.

Many of the cast members who perform in the 35th Anniversary retelling of "Saturday's Warrior," also appear in the sequel, "The White Star," which is performed on the same evening, directly after Saturday's Warrior.



The above scene from "The White Star" shows three actors who play dual roles. The tall "Caleb" is played by Brian Cota, who plays Elder Greene in "Saturday's Warrior." The young boy is "Timothy," played by Kade Tyson, who plays Ernie in the retelling of Saturday's Warrior, while the girl, Mackenzie Pederson, plays Ruth in "The White Star," and "Julie" in Saturday's Warrior.

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Young Man Finds *Joy* in a Difficult Journey

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

You hear it in his voice: the vibrancy, positive attitude, love for life, and determination.

Yet—at least for now—20-year-old Garrett Tanner can't put that into action as he once did.

"Before November 14, 2007, I was having a good time and life was great."

He had worked for three years as an instructor and coach at Desert Devils, a premier gymnastics training facility in Mesa.

"I loved my job, the students and athletes were awesome and a big part of my life. I was also getting ready to start college and looking forward to studying creative marketing and advertising."

That November day, the Mountain View High School graduate and member of the Mesa 46th Ward, Mesa East Stake, successfully completed 10 double front flips, a trick he had done hundreds of times since he started gymnastics at nine years old; but, when he attempted number 11, something went horribly wrong.

"I under-rotated and landed right on my head," Garrett says. "It was just a freak accident."

Garrett knew right away that it was bad, and he was right. As he would soon learn, he had broken his neck and sustained a C5 spinal cord injury.

Courtesy of Jodie Tanner

After being paralyzed from a spinal cord injury suffered in a gymnastics accident, Garrett is grateful for the donations and fundraisers that have made it possible for him to stay at Project Walk in Carlsbad, California, where he works out in an intense program to help him regain strength and functionality.

Unable to move any part of his body, Garrett could breathe and he could talk; and, amazingly, he could reach deep down inside and find incredible strength. He told his dad, Mitchell, who had arrived just as the life flight helicopter was landing, "I'll be fine. I'll get better. We have a journey, but we're ready."

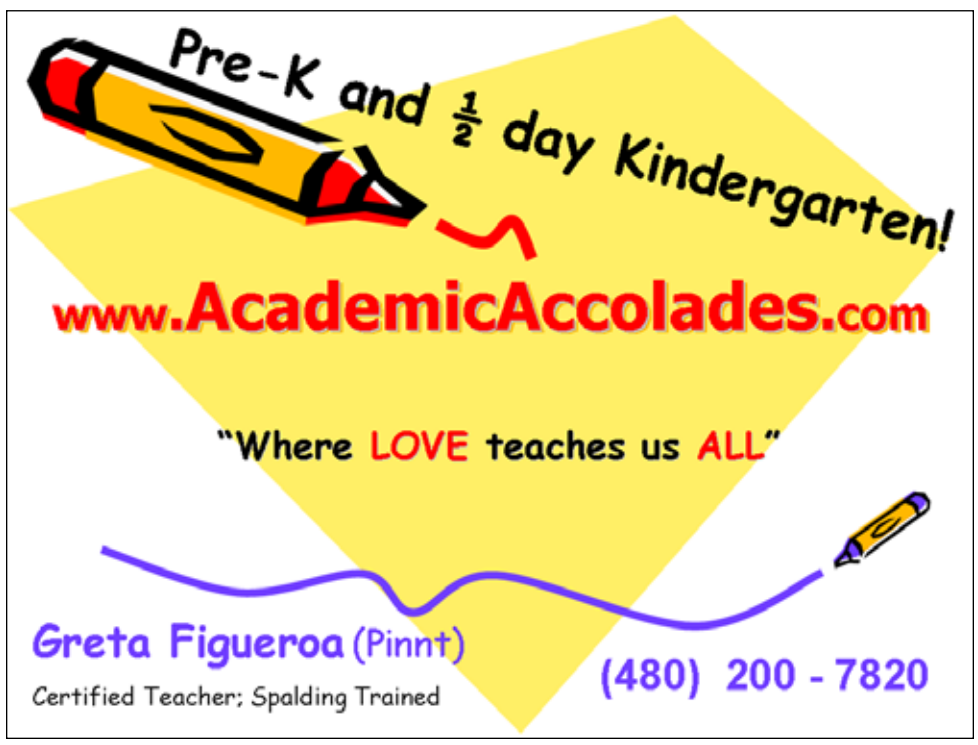
Garrett already knew a little about such journeys. In 2005, his grandfather, Don C. Tanner, of Gallup, New Mexico, suffered a C5 spinal cord injury in a car accident and was paralyzed from his shoulders down. He passed away in April 2007.

"Into my mind flooded all the memories of watching my grandfather struggle," Garret writes. "I couldn't roll over, sit up, get a drink, nothing. Completely helpless, I constantly thought of my grandfather, and wow! Could I ever relate to him and how he coped for two and half years. I also did feel his presence many times and I knew he was aware and quietly somehow whispering encouragement into my ear."

Three months after the emergency surgery at Barrows Institute in Phoenix, Garrett went home.

"With their help I had made some

Continued on pg. 11



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Young Man Finds Joy
Continued from pg. 10

progress. I got more strength in my arms and more control, enough to be able to navigate a powered wheelchair just like my grandpa's," Garrett says.

Still, that wasn't enough. "I intend to walk and to be fully independent again," he says, and he set about finding a way to make that happen. With a wrist device that allows him to hold a pencil, Garrett pecked at the computer keys to search online and found a link to Project Walk.

"The more I saw and read the more I felt that they could help me," Garrett says.

Several donations and fundraisers later, Garrett is now in Carlsbad, California, participating in the extensive—but expensive—program of exercise and muscle stimulation.

"This therapy that I need is reasonably priced but it adds up very quickly over time. It will cost me between $1,000 to $1,200 a week."

He says he will be "forever appreciative and never forget" the generosity of people who have come forward to help make it possible for him to continue.

Nor will he forget the lessons he's learning along the way. He's learned to rely on prayer, saying, "My faith has been completely altered."

He's learned to talk himself up every morning and to rejoice over the little things, like being able to flip open a menu. He's developed "patience, and an inner knowing of self that you're going to get better."

He's also learned to seen the goodness in others. "First, my mom, [Jodie]. She does everything for me. She's my caregiver 24/7," he says. "And, the rest of my family. They're amazing."

"Even people on the street come up to me, tell me they're proud of me…Or, just smile at me," Garrett says. "All the love I've found—you just look around—it's just awesome."

To learn more about Garrett's journey, or to send a donation or e-mail message to Garrett, log on to www.gogarrett.org.

State Senator "Jake" Flake remembered as *"One of the Last of the Famed Cowboy Legislators"*

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Flags at state buildings across Arizona were flown at half-staff, and friends, family members and fellow legislators paid tribute to state Senator Franklin "Jake" Flake, who passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, May 8. He was 72.

Governor Janet Napolitano remembered Flake as a "leader of great strength and wisdom, who worked with passion on behalf of the people of Arizona."

Flake represented District 5 in the Arizona Senate. He previously served in the Arizona House of Representatives from 1997, including a term as speaker of the House.

Born and raised in Snowflake, the town named after his great-grandfather, Flake served an LDS mission to the Navajo. He graduated with Arizona State University's first class in 1960, earning a bachelor of arts in agriculture. Jake worked on his father's Snowflake ranch, eventually purchasing it with three of his brothers and expanding it into one of the most successful cattle operations in the Southwest. He married Mary Louise in 1959, had 13 children, 55 grandchildren and a newborn great-grandchild.

In addition to serving as a state representative, Flake was board member and president of two school boards, an irrigation district, a hospital operating board and a farm credit council's board of directors. He had served on the Grand Canyon Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Arizona Rural Health Association Board, the Arizona 4H Foundation and the Snowflake Heritage Council.

Photo by Nerita Flake

State Senator Franklin "Jake" Flake died at his Snowflake home on May 8 at 72. Flake was named the 2006 Outstanding Legislator by the County Supervisors Association and is shown here in 2005 when the crossing at Cottonwood Wash at Seventh South in Snowflake was named the Senator Jake Flake Crossing.

He encouraged others to "stand up for rural Arizona," saying, "We must continue to fight for our way of life and to better our communities."

Fellow legislators and family members say they will miss Flake's commonsense approach. "We just lost an important, reasonable voice," said Senate Minority Leader Marsha Arzberger.

House Speaker Jim Weiers praised Flake, saying, "His country drawl, ranch-spun stories and devotion to a rural life so few of us in the Legislature know always

Continued on pg. 12

Gilbert Gears Up for CONSTITUTION WEEK CELEBRATION

By Ryan Bailey
The Beehive

Photo courtesy of Constitution Week USA

The Town of Gilbert invites individuals and families from across the state to participate in this year's Constitution Week activities, with the culminating Fair at Highland High School, that features entertainment, activities and representations of historical places and people, such as these Revolutionary soldiers in front of the Liberty Bell.

Families from across Arizona are invited as the Town of Gilbert commemorates the 221st anniversary of the adoption of the United States Constitution with its traditional Constitution Week celebration in September. With a series of events, the festival aims to foster patriotism, while offering fun and education in the process.

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State Senator Jake Flake

Continued from pg. 11

made a conversation with Jake a learning experience. We will miss him and Arizona will miss his experience."

Jake's nephew, Republican Congressman Jeff Flake, who represents Arizona's Sixth District, delivered a statement on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, saying, "Jake leaves behind a legacy of service—from school boards to irrigation districts to hospital governing boards to the Boy Scouts of America to the to the Farm Credit Association to countless other organizations. You name it—Jake Flake ran it, raised money for it, rescued it or improved it."

Jeff added, "To his wife, Mary Louise, Jake was a loving husband. To his 13 children, he was a devoted father. To his 55 grandchildren, he was an adoring grandfather. To his church, he was a faithful servant. To his community, he was a loyal advocate. To his beloved state of Arizona, he was a statesman. To this lowly congressman, he was a caring uncle and mentor, and I will miss him dearly."

Niece Lynn Johnson, of Tempe, agrees, calling him "definitely one of the wisest."

Jake's brother-in-law, John Taylor, of Snowflake, a retired Superior Court Judge and Jake's previous Stake President, says, "What I liked about Jake was that he was able to listen to diverse ideas, even on controversial issues. I never saw him get angry over other's views. He was genuine and got along with people well. He took everything in stride and treated all people with respect."

Jake's sister, Evelyn Taylor, adds, "His toughness as a cowboy was softened by his love for children. He was so tender with not only his own children and grandchildren, but also with neighbor kids and all he came in contact with."

Memorial services were Wednesday, June 11, in Phoenix, and the funeral was Friday, June 13, in Snowflake.

Gilbert Constitution Week
Continued from pg. 12

In the weeks preceding the event, Constitution Week staff, portraying historical figures, will visit Gilbert schools to teach students about the Constitution and promote the festival.

"All the schools have been very excited for us to come," says Barbara Stowell, of the Constitution Week committee executive board.

Students will be invited to participate in an essay contest, writing what traits they think George Washington would value in a political candidate, were he alive today.

Then, the Constitution Week celebration kicks off Wednesday, September 17, with a Boy Scout clinic at Gilbert High School's auditorium, where Scouts can work on four different merit badges, three of which are required to attain the rank of Eagle.

"They won't be able to finish the merit badges there, but it will get them really close," says Barbara.

Registration is available online at www.constitutionweekusa.com until September 16.

The main event, the Constitution Fair, will be Saturday, September 20, at Highland High School. Pre-show entertainment will be from 6 to 8 p.m. and will include number of American history displays, like the Washington Monument and Independence Hall, as well as games, activities, and food. Several political candidates will present their views on various issues in the "town square" area. Children can "meet" famous historical figures, collect their trading cards, solve a "national treasure hunt" to win a prize, and "sign the Constitution." The more adventurous can try the Mount Rushmore rock-climbing wall.

At 8 p.m., the featured show will begin with the national anthem performed by a special guest, after which the Lowe family, a nine-member musical troupe from Branson, Missouri, known for performances at the Olympics and with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, will give a patriotic presentation. Fireworks will follow at 9 p.m. Admission to the evening's events is $2 per person, $10 per family.

The following evening, Sunday, September 21, will be a special fireside tribute, consisting of Rob Gardner's highly-praised musical and visual composition, "The Price of Freedom." This musical, by one of the premier modern LDS composers, was first performed in Mesa in 2002. It provides powerful insight into the sacrifices of selected Americans during World War II. This performance is free.

For Monday, families can download a free lesson from www.constitutionweekusa.com, adapted from President Ezra Taft Benson's Family Home Evening lesson about the Constitution.

For all the details and to see how you and your family can enjoy this tribute to our nation's heritage, visit www.constitutionweekusa.com.

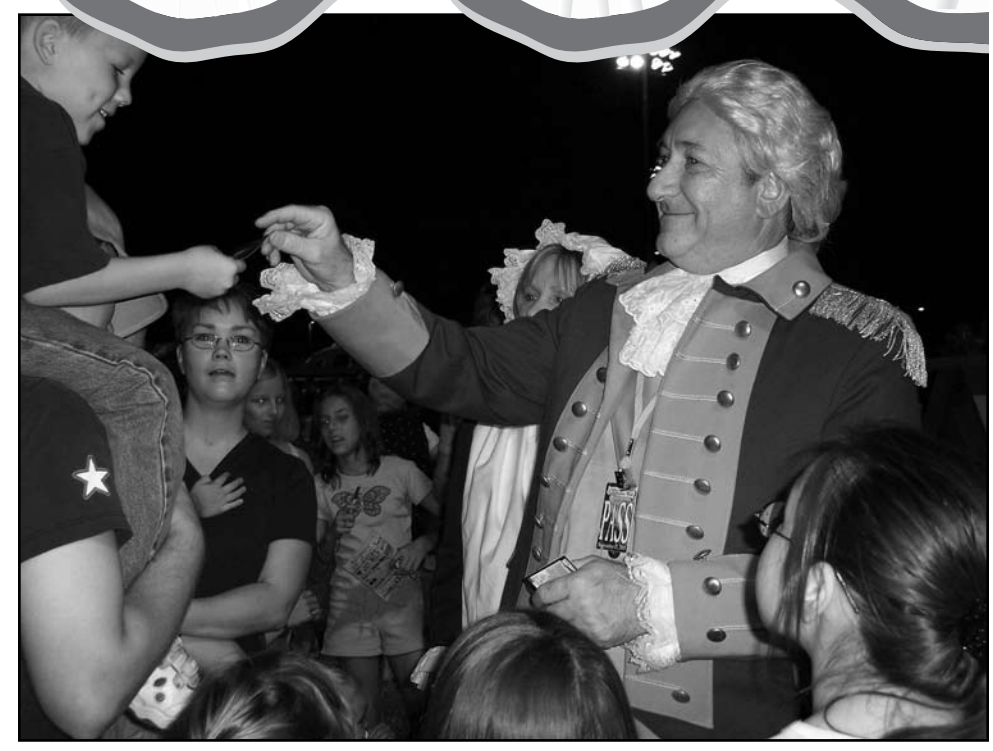

Photo courtesy of the Gilbert Constitution Week Committee

Gina Bellus, as Martha Washington, looks over the shoulder of Ron Bellus, as George Washington, at a past Gilbert Constitution Week Celebration, an annual event that has grown to be among the largest in the state.

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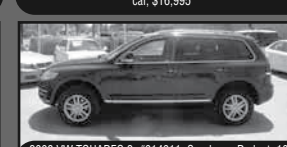
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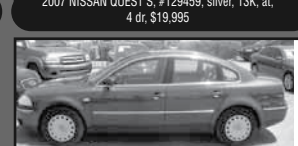
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High School Graduation: *A Special Milestone* for a Special Young Man

Photo by Karen Gruninge

Dallan Cloward, 21, who was born with multiple abnormalities and was not expected to live past two, recently reached the milestone of high school graduation. Dallan is shown here with his siblings (l to r) Caleb, Mikenna (standing) Chelsea, Colton, Dallan, and his father, Chad.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

"We never thought he would live to see Kindergarten and now, at 21, he is graduating from high school," says Chad Cloward.

His son, Dallan, was born August 12, 1986, weighing just over three pounds.

Within minutes, Chad, and Dallan's mother, Corina, knew Dallan had a cleft lip, cleft palate and other abnormalities. They later learned Dallan had 4p-syndrome or Wolf-Hirschorn syndrome, meaning, instead of 23 X-shaped chromosomes, the short arm of Dallan's fourth chromosome was broken off.

Doctors said Dallan would have a life span of less than two years, "basically he would have no learning ability and would be in a vegetable state," Chad says.

"I recalled the mental dilemma, worrying about loving him so much and not being able to deal with the pain of losing a child. Then I realized, if I didn't give him every ounce of love I hadm I would regret that for the rest of my life."

Dallan left the hospital a short time later, weighing just four pounds and wearing the only thing that fit, a Cabbage Patch doll outfit.

"Dallan was in a constant need of being fed to try and put some weight on, so every three hours, day and night, we would take turns feeding him."

Chad and Corina rejoiced over even the smallest accomplishment—at 16 months, Dallan sat up; at two and a half, he crawled for the first time—but, they also worried over the many setbacks.

Dallan experienced seizures, numerous surgeries, a constant regimen of medications and therapy; through it all, he earned his nickname, "The Battler."

He learned to love watching sports, learned to sign "touchdown" and about 15 other signs.

When Dallan was three and a half, Chad and Corina's second child, Mikenna, was born. Shortly after, Dallan suffered a major setback, going "from an improving four-year-old, 20-pound child to a disappearing 10-pound child in just six months," Chad says. "He lost his ability to crawl, sit up and for another unknown reason lost all his hair."

Two years of nightly tube feeding later, Dallan "was at his next miracle stage, old enough for elementary school," Chad says.

Dallan had a wonderful teacher in Joe Zimmerman at Franklin Elementary, where he also found a friend, Nikki, who had the same rare disease as Dallan.

Others played important roles in Dallan's life, and, in return, "Dallan has touched many lives," Chad says.

Continued on pg. 17

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United Families Arizona names new PRESIDENT

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

Photo by Foulger Photo

A strong advocate of marriage and family, Lina Hatch, shown here with her huband, Lorin, was recently named president of United Families Arizona.

Already known for her interest in protecting and preserving the family, Lina Hatch will take center stage with that effort as the new president of United Families Arizona (UFA). UFA, the state affiliate of United Families International (UFI), is a non-partisan organization dedicated to defending and promoting marriage and the family in Arizona.

Lina (pronounced li-NAE) and her husband, Lorin, have seven children and seven grandchildren. They have lived in Gilbert for 32 years and are members of the Islands Ward, Gilbert Stapley Stake.

Lina first became involved with UFA in 2004. The issues they addressed, from stem cell research to all aspects of family life, interested her.

Sister Hatch comes well prepared to serve as the UFA president. She has an undergraduate degree in Child Development and Family Relations and a master's degree in Family Relations from BYU.

With that background and her desire to educate others about family life and traditional values, Lina says, "United Families was a perfect fit. I knew that once my children were grown, it would be my turn to get involved."

In 2005, Lina devoted countless hours in getting petitions filled to qualify the Protect Marriage Arizona proposition for the 2006 November election ballot. The state was divided into several areas and Lina supervised the Maricopa South section. The Protect Marriage Coalition relied on UFA's willing volunteers and the collective efforts paid off. The Arizona Marriage Referendum passed the House with a vote of 33 to 25 and has now moved on to the Arizona Senate. The referendum seeks to amend the Arizona Constitution to protect marriage as between one man and one woman. In recent years, 27 states have passed marriage protection amendments.

Carol Soelberg, a former UFA president and the current president of United Families International, was quoted in the UFI newsletter, saying, "Lina's past involvement in United Families Arizona has prepared her well to take over the leadership of the chapter."

Carol adds, "She was a natural choice for the chapter presidency, and we are confident that United Families Arizona will flourish under her direction. I want to ask our Arizona members to get behind Lina and help her in the important work of defending marriage and family."

Future plans for UFA include a membership drive, a communications network between the international and the Arizona organizations and continued work on the marriage amendment.

Lina says, "We need to stay involved to inform people and get them out to vote."

UFA also continues to support "Abstinence Education," promoting abstinence before marriage and fidelity after marriage.

The organization will have an information booth at the July Arizona Homeschool Convention as well as at the Gilbert Constitutional Week Fair in September.

Lina, who is the sixth president of UFA, is quick to express appreciation to those who volunteer, saying, "I have a wonderful board to work with, comprised of men and women who are very knowledgeable and supportive."

She hopes others will get involved, noting that dues and charitable donations are UFA's "bread and butter."

To learn more, visit the UFA Web site at www.defendmarriage.org/state/az .

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INTERFAITH DIALOGUE PROMOTES CIVILITY

At the Tempe Institute of Religion in April, BYU professor, Dr. Robert Millet, and Baptist minister, Reverend Greg Johnson, shared the podium for "A Conversation Between a Mormon and an Evangelical," a program they present across the country in an effort to create greater understanding and "convicted civility."

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

In a rare, but refreshing, dialogue between two staunch defenders of their religions, BYU professor Dr. Robert Millet and Evangelical Baptist minister Reverend Gregory Johnson exemplified how civility can rule in an open discussion at the Tempe Institute of Religion April 25.

The event, sponsored by the Greater Phoenix LDS Interfaith Council and the Arizona Ecumenical Council, was attended by hundreds of people from different faiths.

"Convicted civility" was the phrase of the evening; meaning that a person can hold tenaciously to his or her beliefs and, yet, communicate with a friend who believes differently.

Brother Millet, a distinguished LDS author and speaker, said the two met in 1997 and have since become dear friends, despite discussing candidly their theological differences and concerns for one another.

Since 2001, they have been invited more than 50 groups throughout the country to present what they call, "A Conversation Between a Mormon and an Evangelical."

Rev. Johnson is the founder and president of Standing Together, a ministry he says exists to "advance biblical unity and spiritual transformation in Utah." He is a former member of the LDS Church, but left as a teenager after what he describes as a "born again" experience.

Continued on pg. 17

Interfaith Dialouge Promotes
Continued from pg. 16

Both men are involved in interfaith efforts to bring together both Evangelical Christian churches and the Latter-day Saint community. They hope their presentation helps to create better understanding on both sides.

Rev. Johnson asked Brother Millet about some historical topics that are commonly used by Evangelicals to condemn the LDS Church, including blood atonement, the belief that Christ and Satan were spirit brothers and the practice of polygamy.

Brother Millet replied, "People are down on what they are not up on and not many people are up on what the central teachings of the Latter-day Saints happen to be."

He said those and other topics are commonly taken out of context, are anomalies, misstatements, misrepresentations or peripheral teachings.

The test for "central, saving doctrines of the Church" can be found in these questions: Is it found in the canons of scripture and taught in the standard works? Is it found in official declarations or proclamations of the Church from the First Presidency? Is it taught regularly and consistently by the highest authorities of the Church in General Conference? Is it found in the general handbooks or curriculum?

"We don't denounce our past, we don't denounce our beginnings," he said, "but, we believe that this happens to be a living church and, if you are a living church, that means there comes line upon line, precept upon precept, development upon development. So, we understand it better now than we understood it in 1840."

He said in the history of any church are statements and practices that current leaders don't agree with. For example, historical records show that Southern Baptists once encouraged people to practice slavery on the basis of biblical references.

Rev. Johnson conceded that point. "It is not fair to judge everything about your faith by what anybody might have said at any one time."

Brother Millet said it's easy to call a religion a cult and then dismiss them for lack of understanding. "It takes time to understand not only the heart of someone but also their theology."

Both implored audience members to learn how to engage in thoughtful, nonjudgmental conversations and to stand together against a culture whose moral values are crumbling. "We can and should work together," Rev. Johnson said.

The two collaborated on a new book, *Bridging the Divide: The Continuing Conversation Between a Mormon and an Evangelical*. To order the book or to watch a video sample of their presentation, visit standingtogether.org.

High School Graduation Milestone
Continued from pg. 14

Dallan moved on to Stapley Junior High School, where his teacher was Jennifer Alig. In February 2002, at age 15, Dallan walked for the first time.

When Dallan transferred to Dobson High School, Jen Alig went with him.

"She has truly been a Godsend for us and for Dallan," Chad says.

When Jen called to say Dallan would be graduating, Chad says, "Even though I knew this was his last year, it tugged at my heart."

Dallan's milestone caused Chad to reflect on his own life.

"I can always look to Dallan for inspiration. Even though he can't speak he touches more lives than great orators, he never goes out of his way to have anybody notice him; people are simply drawn to him," Chad says.

Chad continues, "Jesus taught us to be as a child; that verse has so much more meaning and power every time I think of it. …There is more power in life from learning from Dallan and others like him than in all the self help books, tapes, religious leaders, political leaders combined," Chad says. "I hope all of us can reflect on the incredible life we have and find a way to improve our spirit, which will transfer to all of those around us."

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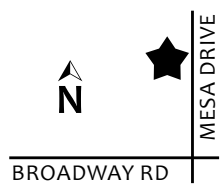

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3 new TEMPLES *announced for Arizona*

Photo by Jill Adair

Saturdays are especially busy at the Mesa Arizona Temple with up to 40 sealings and weddings during peak times. Currently 74 stakes are in the Mesa Temple district. The Church's Temple Department reports that, outside of Utah, the Mesa Temple is the busiest one in the world.

By Cecily Markland with Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

The historic Mesa Arizona Temple was the first to be built within the continental United States outside of Utah. The Mesa Temple, which served the Southwest, Mexico and Central America for more than 50 years, also was first to provide temple ordinance sessions in Spanish.

In 2002, a second temple was built in Snowflake, Arizona, and now serves the 11 stakes in northeastern Arizona.

Now, Arizona marks another first in temple-building history, as the first three new temples announced by President Thomas S. Monson will be built in Arizona.

Arizona is considered one of the fastest growing states, with a current population of more than 600,000; and, Church membership in Arizona has kept pace with the growth. Today, in Arizona, there are nearly 400,000 members in 87 stakes. Currently, more than 70 of those stakes make up the Mesa Temple district and the Church's Temple Department reports that the Mesa Temple is the busiest outside of Utah.

Arizona Church members rejoiced when, on April 28, two new Arizona temples were announced, one to be built in southeast Gilbert, the other in the Gila Valley.

The press release regarding the Gilbert temple, stated, "Gilbert and its surrounding communities enjoy a high concentration of Church members, who currently attend the Mesa Arizona Temple. A temple in Gilbert will help relieve demands currently placed on the Mesa temple, which serves over 70 stakes throughout southern Arizona."

In announcing these new temples, President Monson said, "It is my personal priority to make sure members of the Church have access to the blessings of the temple."

He continued, "It is here where members learn of their divine origin and destiny; where they are strengthened spiritually as individuals and families. Temples are sanctuaries from the storms of life."

Then, just four weeks after two new temples would be built in Arizona, on May 24, President Monson, announced yet another new Arizona temple, this one in Phoenix. This will bring the total number of temples in Arizona to five and the worldwide total number of temples already in operation or in the planning and constructions phases to 140.

"The blessings of the temple are eternal," said President Monson. "Those who come to this holy house will feel of God's love for His children and come to a greater understanding of their own divine origin and potential as His sons and daughters."

According to a Church News article, Mesa Temple President, Ezra T. Clark, Jr., says he believes tremendous blessings will come to the people of Arizona as these temples are built and dedicated, ensuring less travel time, more availability, more opportunities for youth to do baptisms, more temple worship and service.

"Bringing temples closer to people allows more of them to participate in the magnificent blessings that are there," he is quoted as saying. "Many very sacred and spiritual things will occur."

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President Dennis Barney *Receives* Golden Rule Award

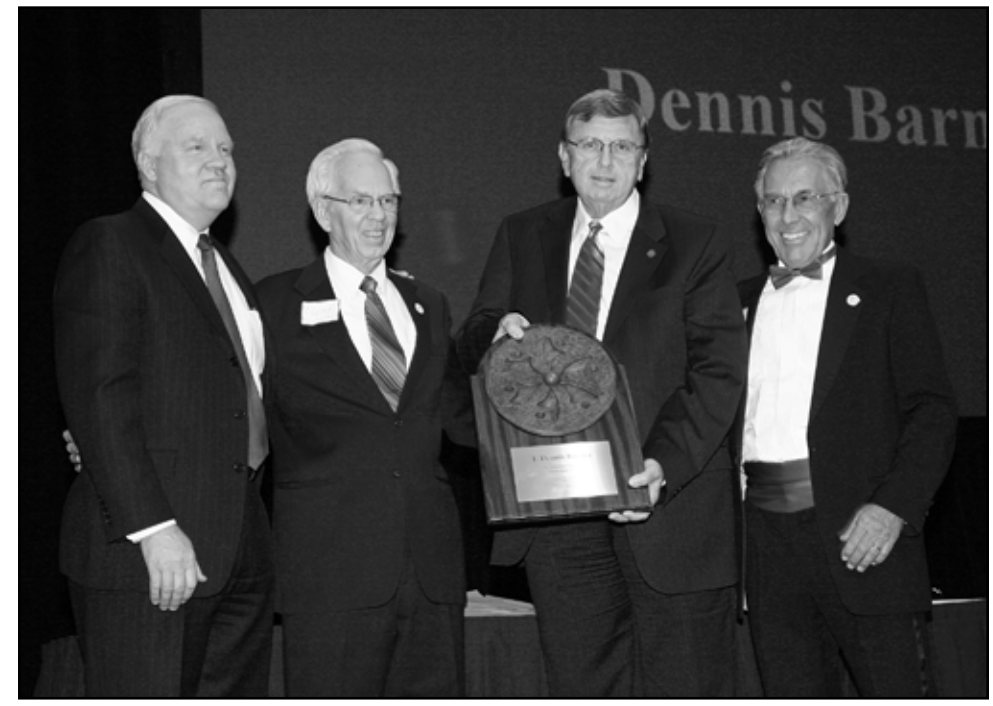

Photo by Jason Barney

At this year's 4th Annual Golden Rule Awards Banquet, Tempe University Stake President, Dennis Barney (holding plaque), was presented with the Darl Andersen Award by (l to r) Wilford Andersen; Eldred Spain, president of Arizona Interfaith Movement (AIFM) and Paul Eppinger, AIFM Executive Director.

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

At the Fourth Annual Golden Rule Awards Banquet, in April, 10 local citizens were recognized for living the Golden Rule in exemplary ways. At that event, one of the top honors, known as the Darl Andersen Award, went to Dennis Barney, a fifth-generation Mesa native.

The Golden Rule banquet is sponsored each year by the Arizona Interfaith Movement (AIFM). Since it was founded in 1995, AIFM has worked to build bridges of understanding, respect and support among diverse people of faith through education, dialogue, service and the implementation of the Golden Rule.

The group, says director, Dr. Paul Eppinger, has "a passion for unity." AIFM members believe that the Golden Rule can serve as the basis for unity and can transform the world into a more peaceful, happy place.

Indeed, the annual banquet itself is a demonstration of the common ground promoted by AIFM, and, this year, more than 900 people representing the following faith groups were in attendance: Baha'i, Roman Catholic, Christian Science, Community of Christ, Hare Krishna, Hindu, Jain, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jewish, Muslim, New Thought, Protestant, Religious Science, Scientology, SGI Buddhist, Sikh, Sufi, Tibetan Buddhist, Unification, Unity, even agnostic, and no religion at all.

Pat McMahon, the host of KTAR radio's, "The God Show," was the Master of Ceremonies.

Before the diverse crowd at the banquet, Wilfred Andersen presented the award bearing the name of his father, Darl Andersen, to Dennis Barney and expressed gratitude for his many years of civic and church service and of living the Golden Rule.

A member of the Lindsay Ward, Gilbert Val Vista Stake, President Barney is currently serving as Stake President of the Tempe University Stake. He and his wife, Ann, are the parents of 10 children, including one son who is serving a mission in Alaska. They are grandparents of 22, with two more on the way.

President Barney's family members have joined him in much of the service he has done for the community, including the Habitat for Humanity InterFaith house building projects and the InterFaith Youth "Feed the Hungry Day," when young people of all faiths joined in canning food to donate to local food banks.

More than five years ago, President Barney was called as Chairman of the Interfaith Relations on the Public Affairs Committee of the Church, which led him to working with AIFM. In a radio interview with Pat McMahon, President Barney explained the home and visiting teaching programs of the Church and said, "You love the ones you serve."

Along with the annual banquet, AIFM has launched an effort to encourage Arizona residents to order a new Golden Rule license plate, which the group hopes "will be a traveling billboard that encourages kindness, civility and patience, rather than violence and aggression." The license plate, which costs $25 annually, can be ordered through the ADOT Web site: www.servicearizona.com. From the home page, click on "What's New" in the bottom right hand corner, choose "What's New – 2007," and then select "Golden Rule Plate."

For more information about AIFM: http://interfaitharizona.com/

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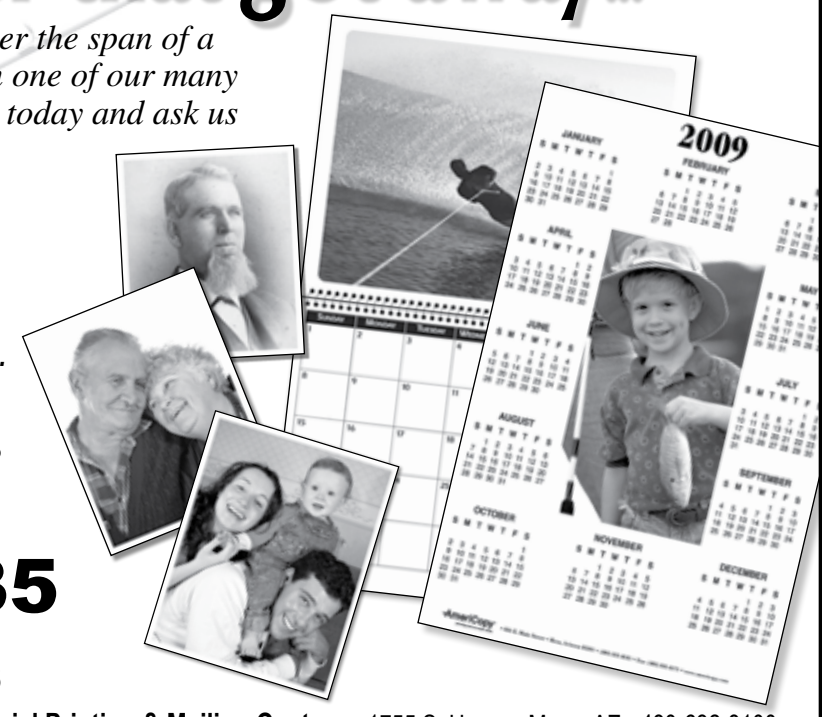

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Mom & Daughter gain much from "BIGGEST LOSER" EXPERIENCE

Bette-Sue Burklund and her daughter, Alison (Ali) Vincent, of Mesa, one of the "couple" teams on NBC's "The Biggest Loser" Season 5, lost a total combined weight of 197 pounds and Ali finished as the first female to win the show's title of "The Biggest Loser."

As contestants on "The Biggest Loser" television show, Ali Vincent won the final title of "The Biggest Loser," having lost more than half her body weight and ending up at 112 pounds. Bette-Sue Burklund, the "mom" half of "The Biggest Loser" couple team lost 75 pounds, from 261 to 186 pounds.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Their loss also brought tremendous gains.

The mother-daughter team of Bette-Sue Burklund and Alison (Ali) Vincent, of Mesa, lost a combined total of 197 pounds in Season 5 of NBC's fitness reality TV show, "Biggest Loser." And, although she was voted off in week 4, Ali was brought back for the final two shows and ended up winning it all, claiming the $250,000 reward as well as the distinction of being the first female to win "The Biggest Loser."

Ali lost more than half her body weight, starting the show at 234 and ending up at 112 pounds lighter at 122. Bette-Sue lost an impressive 75 pounds, from 261 to 186 pounds.

Amid the calorie-watching, the exercise and strength training, Bette-Sue and Ali also strengthened their relationship and both gained new perspectives on life.

Bette-Sue, and Richard, her husband of four years, are members of Las Sendas Ward, Salt River Stake. She says, initially, she wasn't interested in going on the show herself, but planned to go to the tryouts to stand in line with Ali and to offer encouragement and support.

When they learned Season 5 would

Continued on pg. 21

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Mom and Daughter Gain Much
Continued from pg. 20

feature couple teams, Bette-Sue agreed to audition with Ali.

"I was the only fat person Ali knew," she laughs.

They moved through the application process, submitting a wide range of requested information and pictures, between August 11 and October. Then, they were invited to Los Angeles, where they were sequestered and observed.

"They even sent people home then," Bette-Sue says.

The mom-and-daughter made it through and embarked on what Bette-Sue calls, "The hardest thing I've ever done."

The daily, eight-to-ten-hour workouts were grueling. Plus, says Bette-Sue, it was difficult to be weighed on live television.

"I humiliated myself in front of 13 million people," she says.

Still, she wasn't happy when they were voted off the show.

"We had never been at the bottom of the barrel and we had the highest percentage for losing," Bette-Sue says, "but it was a strategy move for the other players."

"Ali decided that night that she was going to be the biggest loser on the show or off. She saw the light at the end of the tunnel and dove right in."

So, when, because of the writers' strike, two more shows were added to Season 5, Ali was invited to come back and to be weighed against those still on the show.

Bette-Sue, who owned a seminar company, taught her two daughters to have a positive attitude and to visualize their goals.

"Ali really applied all of that," adopting—and often chanting—her motto, "Believe it! Be it!"

"Whatever it took, she was willing to do," Bette-Sue said.

When Ali, 32, came out on top at the last weigh in, she says, "I can't believe it. I actually did it."

She says the win was extremely empowering.

"I feel like I could do and be and have anything I want," she says, adding, "That's what beauty is, to feel strong and confident."

I started to dream big again

Now a size 2, down from 47 percent body fat to 10 percent, Ali is immersed in her role as "the face of The Biggest Loser." She participates in events across the nation and is working toward starting the Believe it, Be it Foundation, to encourage young women to reach for their dreams.

"There are no limits. …I've started to dream big again and I'm going to continue to dream big," Ali says. "My physical being is a direct representation of how I feel inside, just strong and confident and beautiful."

> **"We need to take better care of ourselves and do better about honoring the gift God has given us."**

Bette-Sue also is busy and involved, appearing at functions and speaking to various groups. She meets one on one with people, often getting them started with the "Body Bug," the calorie-burning monitoring device "Biggest Loser" contestants wear.

"I love to go and talk to people and am looking for opportunities to speak about this to young women and other groups," says Bette-Sue. "We need to take better care of ourselves and do better about honoring the gift God has given us."

To read more about Bette-Sue and Ali, visit their blog site www.gopink-team.blogspot.com, where you'll find recaps, before and after photos, tips and encouragement from Bette-Sue and Ali.

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LDS MOMS encouraged to join together in fostering INTERFAITH FRIENDSHIPS

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

As president of the Arizona Association of American Mothers, Inc., Lynn Johnson is helping other Latter-day Saint moms to reach out, break previous boundaries and do away with misunderstanding among people of all faiths.

"I'm an advocate of saying to LDS groups, 'Get out there and get involved. Don't be afraid to be the only LDS woman in PTA, etc. We need to reach out, to be best friends with members of other faiths at this point," Lynn says.

"The passion I have is for Latter-day Saints to develop more inter-faith alliances," she says, adding, "American Mothers provides a great outlet to do that."

Lynn, who is a member of the Twelve Oaks Third Ward, Tempe South Stake, and was the 2005 Arizona Mother of the Year, is currently focusing on outreach, meeting with various congregations and women of all faiths.

The ultimate goal is a parenting conference in October, which will serve to unite the community and provide tools and information to strengthen parents.

"At the national American Mothers Conference in April, it was so fun to rub shoulders with Christian women and others who just want to jump on doing things to make families better," she says.

While American Mothers has always welcomed women of all faiths, Lynn says, both the state and national organizations "have a good representation of LDS women" and, she adds, "With the background and experience we tend to have, Latter-day Saints tend to naturally become leaders in the organization."

Particularly in recent years, she says, "You can really see the value of the Proclamation on the Family. Some people, even in an organization that focuses on families, you see some people waffle on contemporary issues and wonder,

Continued on pg. 26

Photo courtesy of Lynn Johnson

Lynn Johnson (l), president of the Arizona chapter of American Mothers, Inc., shown here with Arizona Young Mother 2008, Caron Sada at the American Mothers national convention in Lincoln, Nebraska in April, says the organization offers women of all faiths an opportunity to work together to strenghen parenting skills and foster understanding within the community.

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Activities will include a hometown football game, barbecue dinner, fireworks, free time for visiting with friends and family, and more. Some families and school classes have planned individual reunions for this weekend as well.

Organizers are expecting more than 2,000 people to participate and asking that individuals spread the word to other family, friends, neighbors and classmates who lived in St. David.

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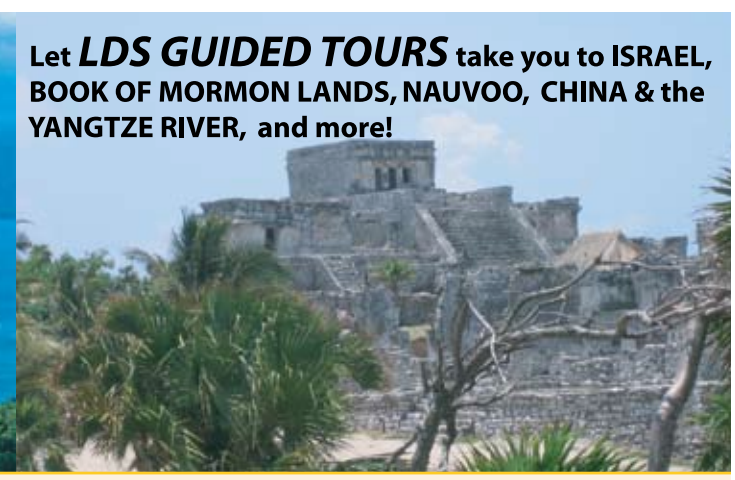

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LDS Moms Encouraged to Join

Continued from pg. 22

'What should I do?'where we have that as a guide."

Lynn says American Mothers is the official sponsor of Mothers' Day and owns the trademark for Mother of the Year. She encourages women to get involved, saying there are many ways to do so, if only by signing up for the weekly e-mail updates she sends out. She says annual dues are only $30, but, adds, "No one has to join to be part of our e-mail list or to participate in a neighborhood group." She says they encourage women to organize these small, neighborhood groups, in which "mothers mentor mothers. At these group meetings, mothers can feel support and encouragement from each other."

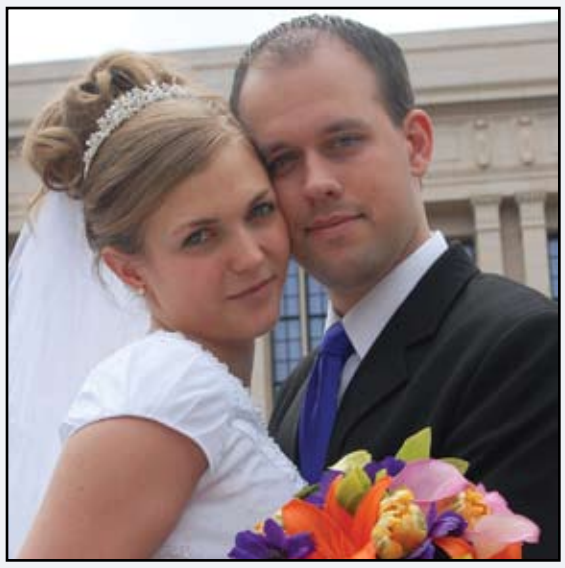
The national organization offers a Parenting Guide by Dr. Kenneth Latham, which provides a framework for monthly meetings, with mini-lessons that act as discussion starters. "These manuals are available to anyone who would like to start a parenting group."

The Arizona chapter also has a speaker's bureau. "The speakers have expertise in a lot of things affecting families. We have women who can talk about grandparenting, working with teens or foster children, and any other topic to groups like Rotary clubs or any ward or community group," Lynn says.

The monthly e-mails Lynn sends out include updates on what's happening in the legislature regarding family issues and will provide details about the October parenting conference as the plans develop. To sign up for this weekly newsletter, log on to azmothers.com.

More information about the national organization is available at www.americanmothers.org. To contact Lynn Johnson, e-mail her from the Web site (azmothers.com) or call 480-560-4245.

Weddings Celebrations Births



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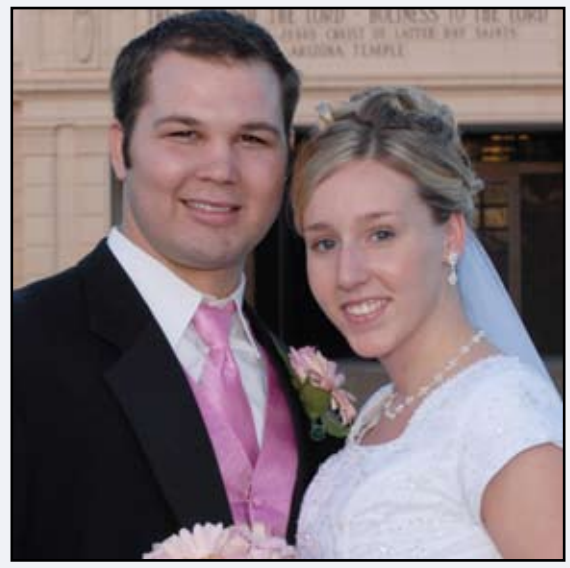

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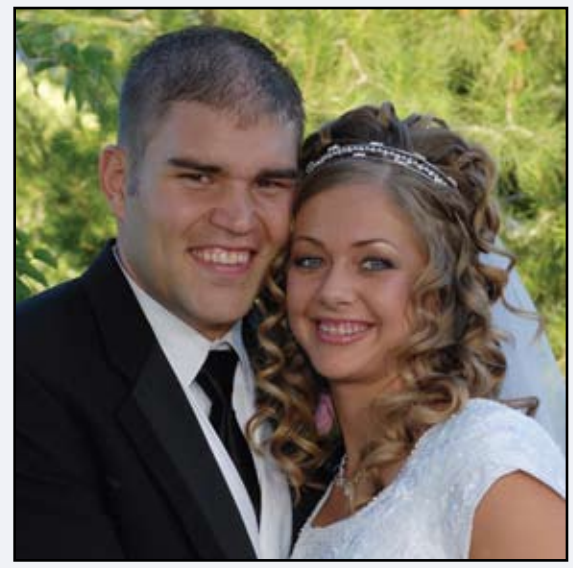

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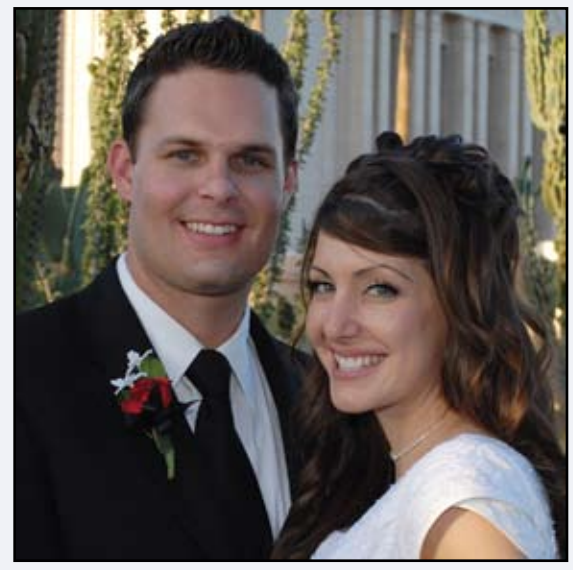

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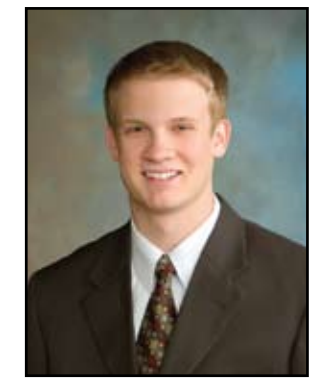

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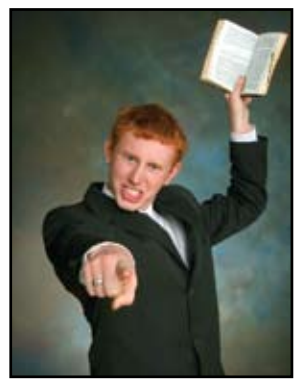

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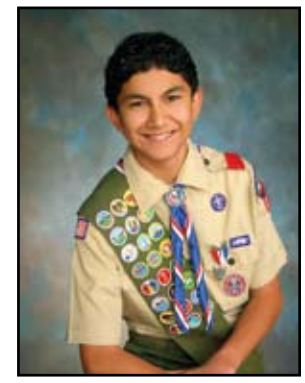

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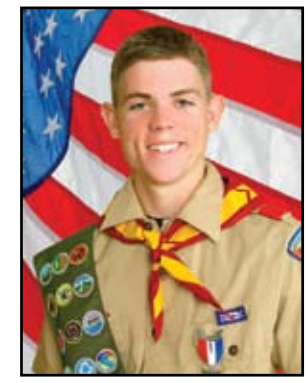

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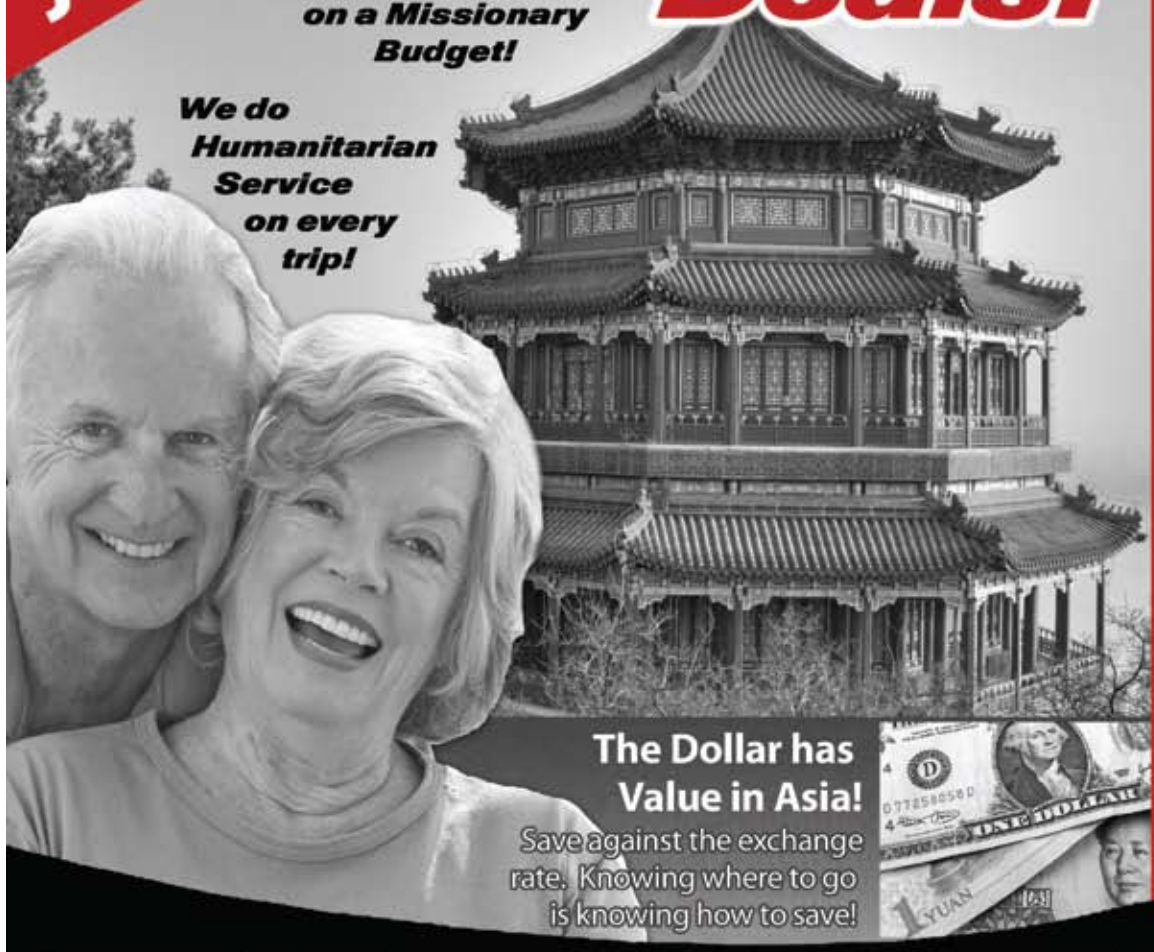

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Photo courtesy of Brooke White

Brooke White
Finishes in "Idols" Top Five

Mesa native, Brooke White, captured the attention of millions with her piano and guitar-playing and her pure, soulful sound as she finished as one of the top five contestants during season seven of American Idol.

By Cecily Markland & Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

Mesa native, Brooke White, sang her way in the hearts of television viewers across America as she graced the stage of this year's American Idol.

She captured the attention of millions, beginning during tryouts when Brooke spoke of her family and her refusal to watch R-rated movies.

Brooke, 24 the daughter of Brad and Kaylene White, grew up in Mesa with three younger siblings. She didn't begin singing until age15, when she had the lead role in her high school's musical at Heritage Academy in Mesa. She graduated in 2001 and, in 2005, performed at the Mesa Arts Center after releasing her first CD, "Songs from the Attic."

Recognized for her distinctive, soulful sound, Brooke also has become an avid songwriter, accomplished on both the piano and guitar. She says her

Continued on pg. 31

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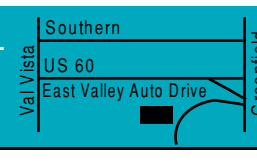

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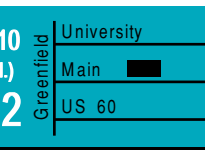
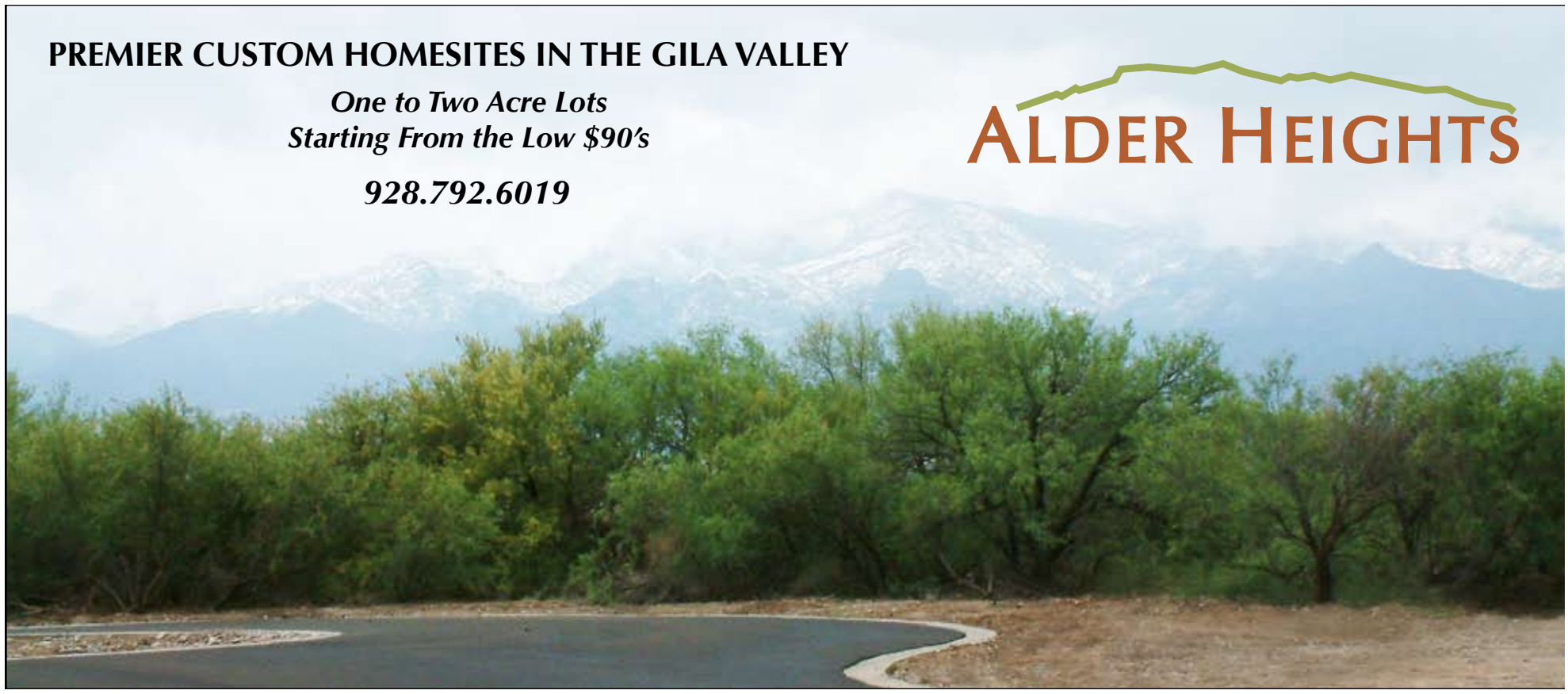




Brooke White
Continued from pg. 30

music, "has a throwback vibe to it," as she was influenced by singers of the '70s such as James Taylor, Carole King, Stevie Wonder and Carly Simon.

She admits, her musical career hasn't come easy. "I was a 17-year-old beauty school drop-out, fresh out of high school when I first made the move to L.A.," where she worked as a nanny. After a short time, she returned home to consider the direction she wanted her music, and her life, to take.

Ultimately, although, it meant turning down several opportunities, Brooke says, "I decided to do it in a way and with the purpose to uplift people."

Today, she is married to Dave Ray and the couple make their home in Van Nuys, California.

Brooke made it into the top five of Idol's season seven, before it was her turn to leave the show on April 30.

During her elimination video, White stated, "It's probably not a secret that I struggled with my own confidence, but I'm stronger than I thought I was and that's a great thing to get out of this."

The following morning, speaking to Fox 10 News, she said, "I'm grateful to have left feeling good."

Brooke is appreciative of her many fans and says she plans to take advantage of the opportunities that may come from her "Idol" experience.

"I want to make great music and connect with the people," she says.

She returned to the Idol stage for the season finale and will participate with the top 10 Idol finalists in the "American Idols Live" tour, which stopped in Phoenix July 1 and continues across the United States through September.

From there, "I don't know what the future holds," Brooke says. "But I feel pretty solid now. It took me a long time. To me, it's been a miracle to play and sing and write."

For more about Brooke and to hear a sample of her music, log on http://www.brookewhite.com/

Heather Madder presents Personal and Family Wellness lecture series this fall

Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Photo by jschomaker.com

Unassuming, petite and pleasant, Heather Madder steps to the front of a room and something amazing happens. With a unique teaching style and messages born of her own journey to overcome self-limiting behaviors and take on, instead, a life of peace and love, Heather leads audiences to see themselves and the world from a new place.

Heather's book, *Walking on the Ceiling: The Practice of Overcoming Barriers and Creating a Life of Freedom*, was published two years ago. "It's a collection of things I learned that assisted me in overcoming my barriers in my own life."

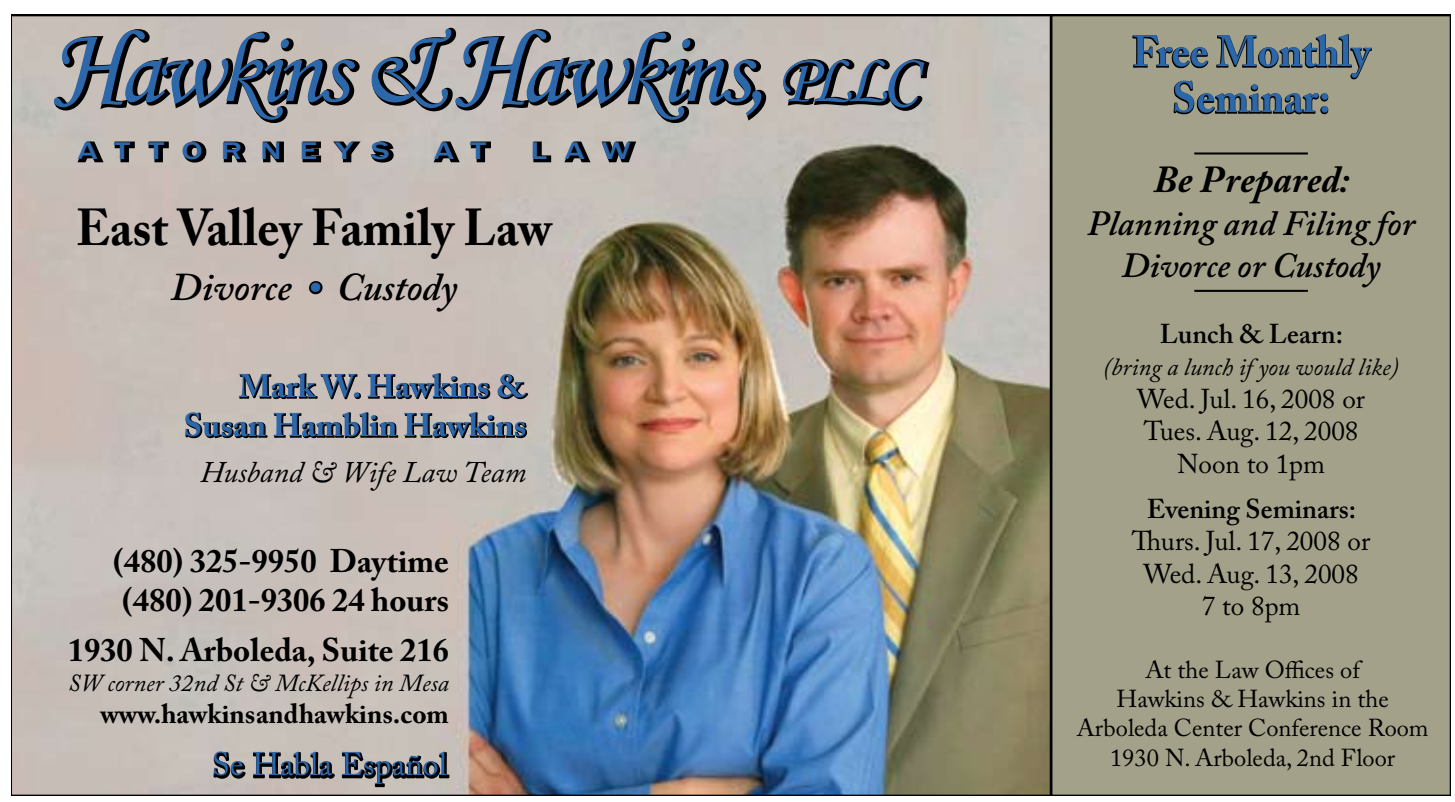
Over the past nine years, Heather has taught audiences of all types and sizes in various parts of the country.

"The first part of my work was on breaking out of bondage," Heather says. "Now, I'm interested in a new set of themes, obviously with a common thread, but now I learn and teach about our divine search for identity, that pure love and wholeness is our destiny."

Heather shares her insights in talk CDs, "The Peaceful Path of Wholeness," and "The Divine Search for Identity" and the recently released, "The Infinite Way of Love."

With Tempe psychologist, college professor and speaker, Neil Weimer, Heather will present a Personal and Family Wellness lecture series at Eagle's Aerie Elementary School (17019 S. Greenfield Rd in Gilbert, 85295). On September 24, the topic will be "Effective Parenting:" October 22, "Stress Management;" and November 12, "Self Esteem." The cost will be $50 for the series, or $20 per evening.

To learn more about Heather Madder, her book, CDs or lectures, visit www.HeatherMadder.com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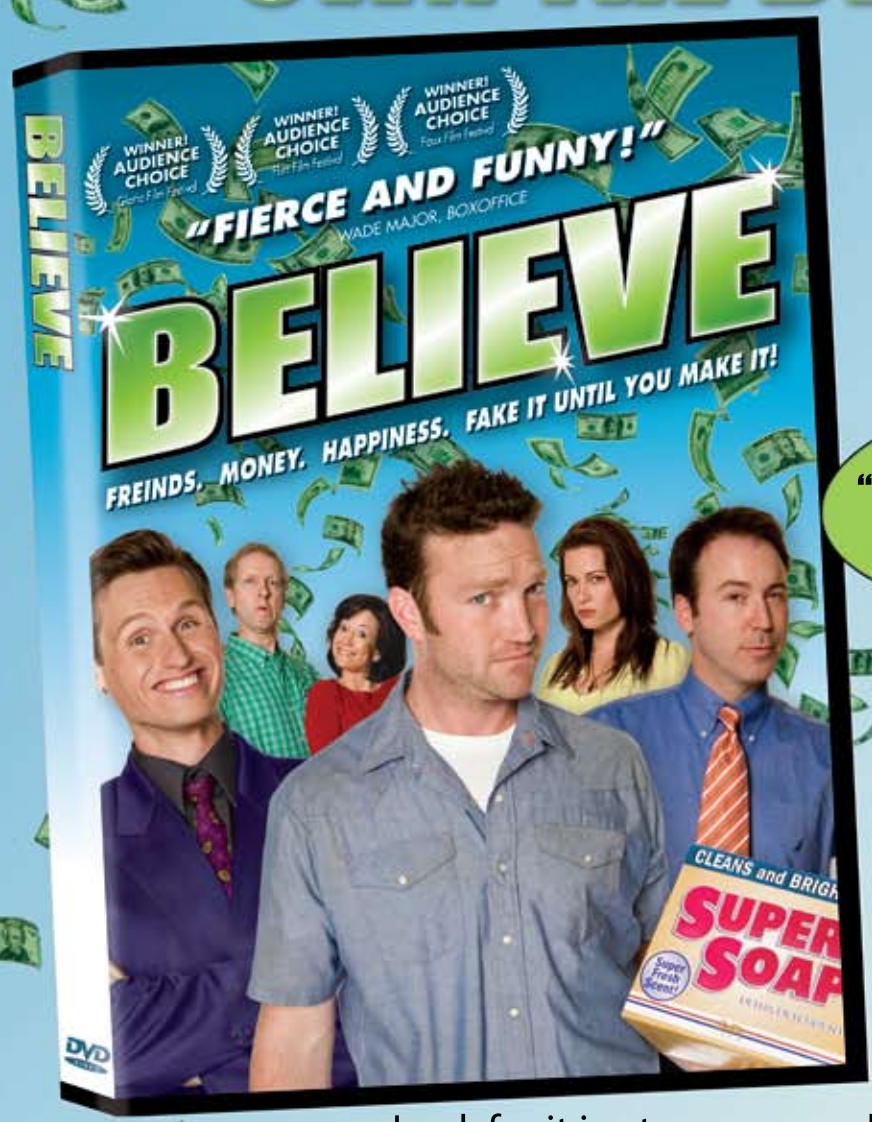

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Eric Herman Sings "The Elephant Song" and other "Cool Tunes for Kids" in Chandler

A ward-winning LDS musician, Eric Endres, better known as "Eric Herman" or simply as "Cool Tunes for Kids" made a stop in Chandler as part of his cross-country tour, where he "wowed" children—and parents, too—with his engaging and entertaining kids' music show. With his unique style of creative activity and interaction, he had children laughing and making crazy moves to his "Dance Like an Animal," song and even got them to quickly clean up a huge box of toys while singing his "In the Box" song.

He is perhaps best known for "The Elephant Song," a song full of surprises, which has received over one million views on YouTube.

Eric lives in the Pacific Northwest, and travels with his wife, Roseann, and their two girls in a motor home colorfully painted like a moving billboard. In addition to the summer tour, Eric is performs at school programs and community events across the country, presenting fun shows that also teach lessons for life.

To hear samples of Eric's music, watch the now-famous "The Elephant Song," download music to iTunes or Rhapsody, etc., or to learn how to order any of the five CDs Eric has produced, visit his fun-filled Web site at www.erichermanmusic.com.

To inquire about having Eric visit your school or community event, contact forms are available on the Web site.

Web-based tool tracks progress for scouting, personal progress and duty to God

With StrengthOfYouth.com, a comprehensive, Web-based tool, Young Men and Young Women leaders can now track the progress youth are making in the Scouting, Personal Progress and Duty to God programs. The online charting tool was developed by Braemar Data Systems, a Mesa-based software company.

"It is the only application available on the Web to track all three of these Church programs," says company president, Gregor McHardy.

"Our aim is to facilitate more youth achieving the progress and rewards for advancement through the Church-sponsored programs for youth," he says.

StrengthOfYouth.com features incremental tracking of all requirements, customizable fields for tracking additional youth data and real-time reporting. StrengthOfYouth.com will also automatically alert leaders of important deadlines and milestones. For example, teachers and deacons are supposed to give a talk each year in sacrament meeting. If a boy has not given a talk and his birthday is three months away, the system will remind quorum and priesthood leaders so they can make arrangements to have the young man speak

"When leaders know exactly where the youth in their programs stand, they can be more effective in creating opportunities for growth and seeing that fewer youth fall through the cracks," Gregor says.

Visit http://www.strengthofyouth.com to see how your branch, ward, or stake can participate in the current beta test of StrengthOfYouth.com. Those who participate in the test will receive a discount on the $35 annual subscription fee when the program is ready for full release.

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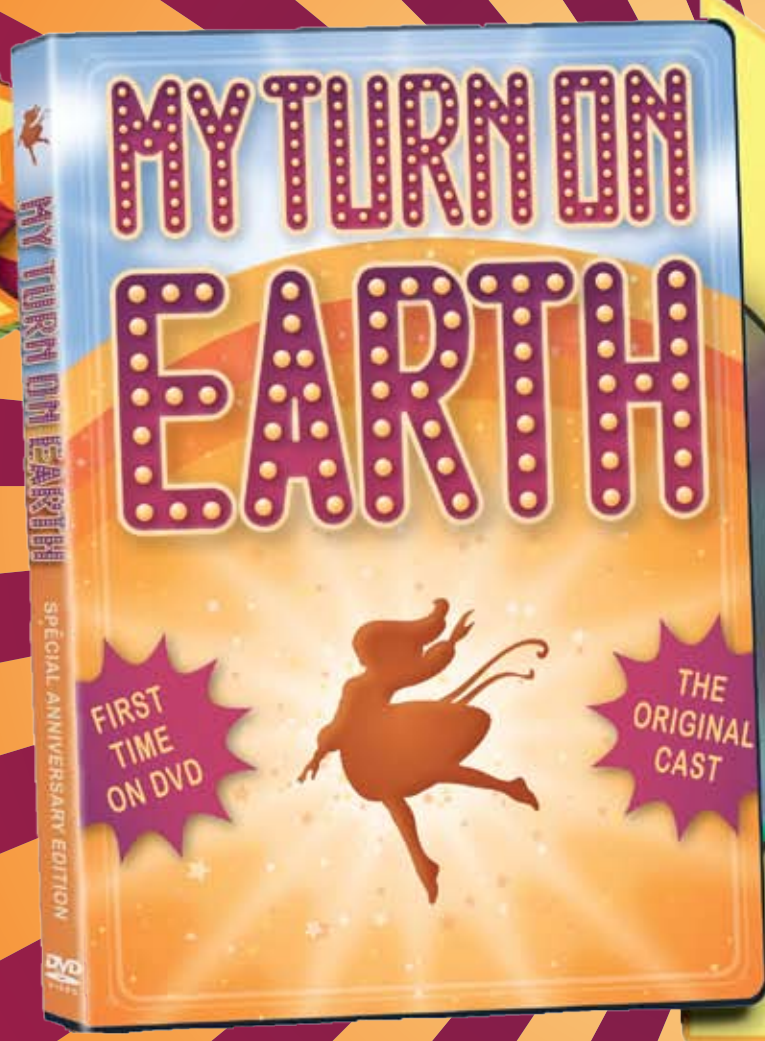

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Family-owned BIG O STORES offer family-friendly SERVICE & VALUE

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Jim Veater and his son, Boomer, own and operate two Big O Tire stores in Gilbert, where their solid reputation and family-friendly atmosphere welcome many repeat customers. Others, who come for the first time, are often referred by one of the Veaters' many satisfied customers.

At the two locations, they say, they not only offer the best tires around, they also provide a full range of services as well as fair and friendly attention to their customers.

Jim, who is a member of the Gilbert 4th Ward in the Val Vista Stake, got into the tire business 30 years ago, when he worked at a Big O store in Mesa. Ten years later, he opened his own store at Gilbert and McKellips in Mesa. Then, in 1996, Jim moved over to the Gilbert store at Baseline and Val Vista. He continues to run his business there with sons, Jake and Morgan.

Boomer, also a member of the Gilbert 4th Ward, has run the family's second store, at Lindsay and Warner in Gilbert, since it opened in 2001.

"We believe strongly in loyalty, in taking care of our customers and our employees," Boomer says.

Jim agrees, saying that, in addition to offering a full-range of services, customer care is a top priority at their stores.

"We do alignments, brakes, oil changes. We can fix your car and you don't ever have to worry about getting cheated," Jim says.

He adds that they pay particular attention to women, helping take the fear and frustration out of the tire-buying experience

"Over half my customers are women. We take extra special good care of women," Jim says.

He says Big O can beat or match other stores' prices.

"It's a myth that others' tires are cheaper," Jim says.

Plus, they offer excellent warranties.

"Big O has always, always had free replacement warranties and road hazard warranties," he says.

At each of the locations, "Customers also can feel comfortable knowing the owner is available. If a customer has a problem, we're right there," Jim says.

Photo by Cecily Markland

The Jim Veater family--including family members shown here at the Lindsay and Warner store from left to right, Jim, Amber and Boomer--own and operate two Big O Tires stores in Gilbert, where they are known for fair, friendly attention to customers as well as top-quality products and a full range of sevices.

Boomer's store, at 740 S. Lindsay Road, is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays and can be reached by calling 480-633-2446. Jim's store, at 3465 E. Baseline Road, is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays and the phone number is 480-892-0903.

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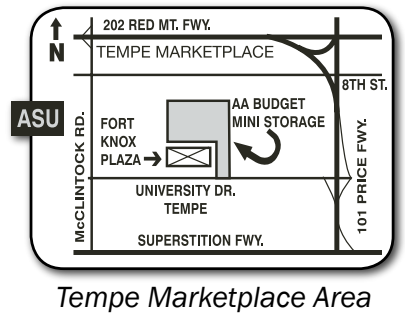

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Local Cowgirls Represent the West in Gilbert's Sister City

Photo by Charlie Brooks

Demonstrating trick roping in Northern Ireland, Taryn Brady, of the Citrus Groves Ward, was a member of the Arizona delegation that went to Gilbert's sister city to give people a taste of the Western way of life.

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

The Cowgirl Historical Society shared their love for the western way of life, American-style, when several of its members traveled to Gilbert's Sister City, Newtownabbey, Northern Ireland. Invited to accompany a Gilbert City delegation, the women, and several of their spouses, helped celebrate a 200-year-old Irish event known as May Fair.

The occasion commemorates a historic agricultural tradition and a time when the British army would come to town to purchase horses. The town still fills the main street with dirt and horses of all varieties are sold as part of the celebration.

The Cowgirls, known to many in the United Sates and recognized as a "performing equestrian drill team," visited several Northern Ireland schools showcasing their trick roping skills and

Continued on pg. 37

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Local Cowgirls Represent
Continued from pg. 36

line dancing, as well as dressing up students in western wear for fashion shows.

Julee Brady, of the Avalon Ward in the Mesa Citrus Heights Stake, was one of several members of the Church among the delegation. "We [the Cowgirls] were awarded 'Best in Parade' at the Gilbert Days [last November], so this led to our being invited to go with Gilbert city officials to Newtownabbey."

Julee says they were happy to accept the invitation as, "It fit our mission statement, which is to promote western education and the equestrian way of life."

The theme for this year's May Fair was "Magnificent Seven," named after the 1969 western classic. Seven Irish boroughs, or towns, in the area united to celebrate the event.

Sister Brady, along with several of her daughters, have been associated with the Cowgirl Historical Society for many years. What began as a group of friends riding together turned into a nonprofit organization dedicated to remembering Arizona's, as well as America's, western past.

Photo by Charlie Brooks

Cowboy, Colter Bradshaw, from the Coolidge First Ward in the Casa Grande Stake, shown here with students in Northern Ireland was among a contingency from Arizona that went abroad to share the history and tradition of the Western way of life.

"We espouse patriotism and honoring families and ancestry," says Julee. "We respect the past and know that steps taken today affect the future—all these are also part of the teachings of our Church." She also points out that respect for God and country are still found in the sport of rodeo, one of the last arenas, so to speak, where the event is opened with both a prayer and a tribute to the national anthem.

The Latter-day Saint members of the group enjoyed attending sacrament meeting with an Irish congregation in a neighboring town.

"It was one of the fun things we got to do," Sister Brady recalls. "The talks were about trusting in the Lord and finding joy despite adversity, the same things that touch our hearts and that we talk about in our meetings. But, of course, this was done in a wonderful local accent."

The Arizona delegation found the people of Newtownabbey to be very respectful of the "American Yankee" way of life, as they called it. Likewise, the talented group of women riders were honored to represent America's western heritage, while learning a little about Northern Ireland in the process.

For more information on the Cowgirls visit their Web site at cowgirlshistoricalfoundation.com

Host Families Sought During August Day Camp for Russian Orphans

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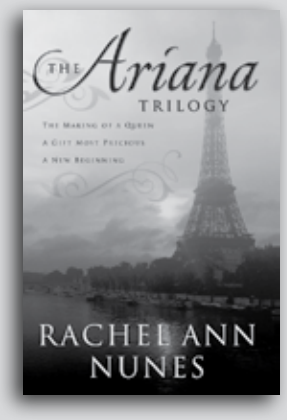

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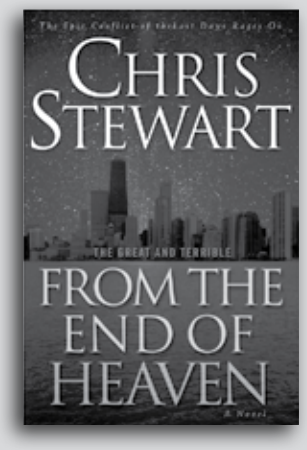

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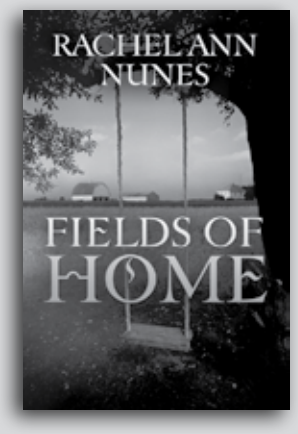

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LDS Attorney Helps Protect Homeowner Rights

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Having been raised in Mesa, Clint Goodman had seen the Valley grow dramatically. That growth meant new homes, often in homeowners associations and, as a lawyer, he quickly became aware of the countless questions and concerns regarding rights, fines, deed restrictions and statutes associated with HOAs and their members.

Ultimately, it was his own run-in with an HOA that prompted Clint to provide a way to help others understand their rights and responsibilities.

"I lived in an HOA," he says, "and I was fined $50 for not taking my garbage can in by five o'clock. I didn't even get home from work before five."

"My experience was relatively mundane compared to some. There are horror stories about homeowners who have faced some pretty sticky situations and thousands of dollars in litigation when dealing with their HOAs," says Clint.

Having represented numerous people against their HOAs and having experienced these difficulties firsthand, Clint recognized a growing need to create an educational organization for homeowners.

With attorneys James L. Tanner and Scott Potter, he founded Homeowners Institute to share information and tools, through instructional seminars, e-newsletters, articles and an online "Ask the Experts" question and answer forum.

Photo courtesy of JacksonWhite, PC

LDS attorney, Clint Goodman, is the founder of Homeowners Institute, which is designed to help protect homeowners' rights by providing educational seminars, articles and legislative updates about what HOAs can and cannot do.

"With this information homeowners can protect their most valuable asset, their home. We equip people so they are forearmed with information and can know what their HOA can and can't do, so they can handle any eventuality in their community and can avoid problems, fines or even litigation," Clint says.

Clint, a member of the Vista Peaks Ward, Alta Mesa Stake, is the president of Homeowners Institute. He currently practices law at JacksonWhite, PC, where he represents homeowners before the Arizona Court of Appeals and Arizona Superior Court. Prior to joining JacksonWhite, Clint worked for the United States Attorneys' Office and received

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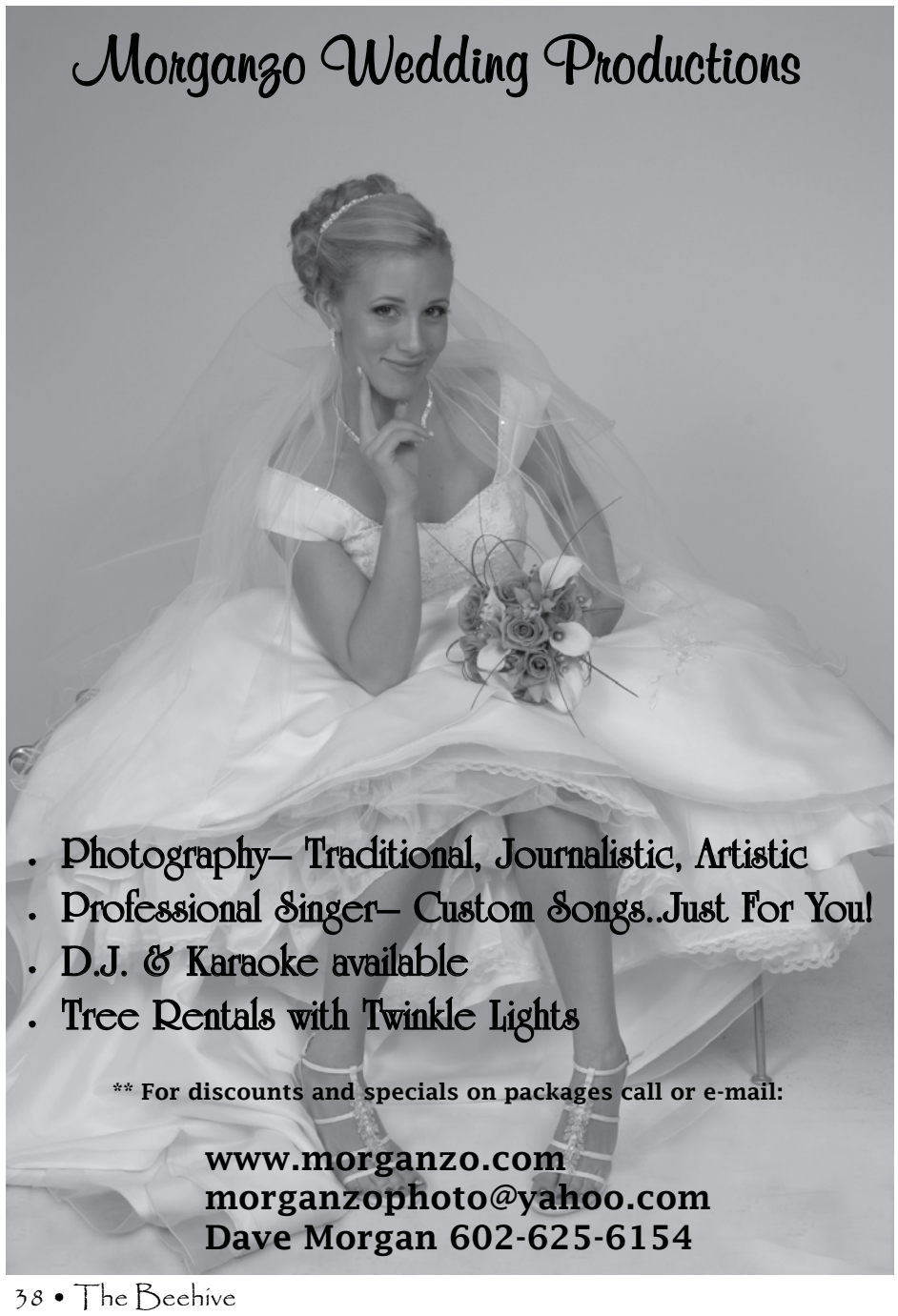

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Mesa woman wins 2008 American Mothers vocal competition

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

Missy Lofgreen Gardiner, of the Mesa Citrus Heights Stake, won the 2008 American Mothers, Inc. vocal competition. She and her husband, Corby, traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska, where she performed at the organization's national four-day conference in April.

She received a $1,000 prize and said she "enjoyed being challenged to learn some new music and to perform again in front of a large audience."

Mrs. Gardiner is a mother of nine children (two are attending BYU). She was raised in a musical home where her mother was her first piano teacher. Missy studied piano and violin throughout grade school, sang in school choirs in junior high and at Mesa High School, and was a member of the Arizona High School All-State choir for three years.

She has performed most of her life, including lead roles in local productions of "Carousel" and "Westside Story." She was a member of BYU's Young Ambassadors.

She has a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Arizona State University.

Mrs. Gardiner has performed solos with the Mesa Symphony, the Arizona Mormon Choir and for various church events.

She has a small private studio of voice students, is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing as well as Music Teachers National Association and currently serves as choir director in her ward.

Courtesy of Missy Gardiner

Missy Gardiner, winner of the 2008 American Mothers, Inc. vocal competition, received a $1,000 prize and performed at the organization's national four-day conference in April.

LDS Attorney Helps
Continued from pg. 38

high honors for his legal knowledge and investigatory skills.

James L. Tanner, a partner at JacksonWhite, has represented homeowners for more than 30 years, during which time he has argued many cases before state and federal courts. Scott Potter, an associate attorney practicing in the areas of real estate, commercial and contract litigation, devotes a large portion of his practice to representing Arizona homeowners in suits against HOAs.

The three attorneys not only represent homeowners, they also advocate for community association reform before the Arizona Congress.

Brother Goodman told the Mesa Tribune, "We're not trying to abolish HOAs entirely. But HOAs pose threats. One of the greatest threats to homeowners involves situations where HOAs amend their community documents, or selectively enforce their community documents, so as to single out individual homeowners and unfairly restrict the rights of those homeowners. In other words, HOAs far too frequently will target specific individuals in a community, and will use the HOA's power to harass an individual. We've seen this frequently, and we've gone to work on behalf of individuals who have been damaged in this way."

"Like it or not, Arizona is no longer a place where people enjoy free use of property; we are now a deed-restricted and community association state," Clint says, adding that, in this environment, Homeowners Institute aims to offer protection by educating individuals while working toward HOA reform.

For information or to learn about coming seminars, visit Homeowners Institute at hoainstitute.com or contact Clint Goodman by calling JacksonWhite at 480-464–1111.

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For one LDS woman HIKING brings health, happiness & ties to heritage

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

For Donna Butler, hiking is a natural extension of her heritage. It's also her secret to health, her number one hobby and the way she demonstrates her love for her native Arizona and for Heavenly Fathers' creations.

Donna, of the Westwood Ward in the Maricopa Stake, traces her roots to men and women she says "hiked" across the plains with Brigham Young.

"My ancestors were close friends to Joseph Smith. They obeyed Brigham Young and hiked across the United States. They did not have high tech boots, clothing and backpacks like I use. They didn't have a hot bath and warm bed to finish off a day's hike like I have. Some times I am out hiking, complaining how tough the hike is going, then realize what a wimp I am compared to my pioneer ancestors," Donna says.

Yet, her statistics alone prove she is far from a hiking wimp.

"I have hiked over 500 miles across Arizona. I have hiked in quick sand, blizzards, strong winds, hailstorms, pouring rain, snowstorms and hotter than hot heat."

A native of Eagar, she was in the first grade when she completed her first real hike, hiking Mt. Baldy, one of Arizona's highest peaks.

"I came home with such a feeling of accomplishment," she says.

Yet, it was seven years ago, when Donna found herself as a single mom, facing health challenges that interfered with her well-being and her zest for life, that she took up hiking in earnest—and she's been an avid enthusiast ever since.

Donna had returned to school at Mesa Community College, where she joined the Geology Club.

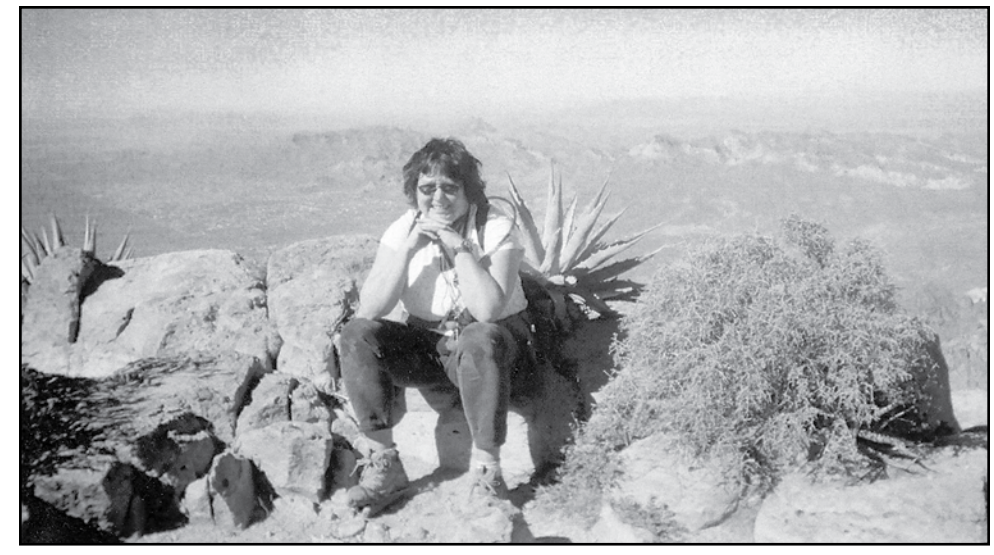

Photo courtesy of Donna Butler

Donna Butler, who hikes for health and a way to remember her heritage, enjoys the scenery from 5,000 feet, atop Flatiron, an outcropping on the west side of the Superstition Mountains.

"My first hike with them was to Four Peaks. We hit snow coming down, snow up to our necks. Every step you took a chance of sliding several feet down the side of the mountain or sinking in snow up to your neck," Donna says. "I did the worst thing a hiker can do…panic. But, I learned that day to never go into panic again."

Indeed, Donna has mastered the safe techniques and mindset to keep fear at bay for herself and, today, she is a hike leader, teaching others how to hike calmly and safely as well.

She says hiking has become a way of life for her.

"I had no clue I would become friends with some of the most advanced hikers in Arizona and I would have to literally hit the gym for three hours a day to stay in the ballgame of leading hikes," Donna says.

In addition to heading up group hikes, Donna hikes solo—often going four or five times or more a week. She says her health has improved dramatically, her outlook on life is better, her happiness is boundless—all because of hiking.

"You become extremely self-sufficient through hiking. The sport develops self-confidence and it carries over in other areas," she says. "There is something very empowering when you look at a mountain in view and know you climbed it and survived to celebrate."

Donna says hiking is a great activity for individuals and families. She says the best way to start is to look into some of the hikes sponsored by the various cities in the Valley.

She also says information about hiking is available on her blog: donnatakeahike.blogspot.com.

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From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

The Beauty of Black and White

I like black and white.

In clothes, it's classic and classy. Black and white can work whether you're wanting functional, no-frills work clothes, or you're needing stylish and sophisticated evening wear. With black and white selections as your mix-and-match wardrobe foundation, it's easy to add a bit of variety with simple jewelry or a colored blouse.

I've even decorated a room in my home in the duo-chromatic décor.

Beauty and fashion taste aside, in a way, black and white is my lifeblood. In my job, black text on a white page is how I make a living as a freelance writer and editor.

I like black and white.

I'd like to see even more things in black and white. However, in today's world of "convenient morality" and "tolerance," shades of gray have obscured the contrast and muddied the demarcation. As a result, many fail to see where the light ends and the darkness begins. It's just as the "prince of darkness would like it to be."

We come face to face with shadiness nearly everyday. It happened to me just this past week.

Always on the lookout for new freelance opportunities, when a book editing job came my way, I jumped at the chance. But, when I got the manuscript in the mail and flipped through the pages, I realized, right there, in black and white, were major shades of gray.

While the book dealt with the Bible and sought to prove the veracity of the word of God, it did so, in one section, by criticizing the Book of Mormon and the prophet Joseph Smith.

My initial thought was pretty "white"—"Send it back."

Yet, quickly came the clouds of rationalization as I tried to convince myself that perhaps I could encourage the author to see it differently.

"It does say good things about the Bible," I thought. And, "It would be nice to have the money, especially right now." And, "This could be my chance to get a foot in the door and set myself up for some ongoing work."

As good as all that may have sounded as it played out in my mind; bottom line, this area was more than gray.

Still, it wasn't really black and white.

Or, was it?

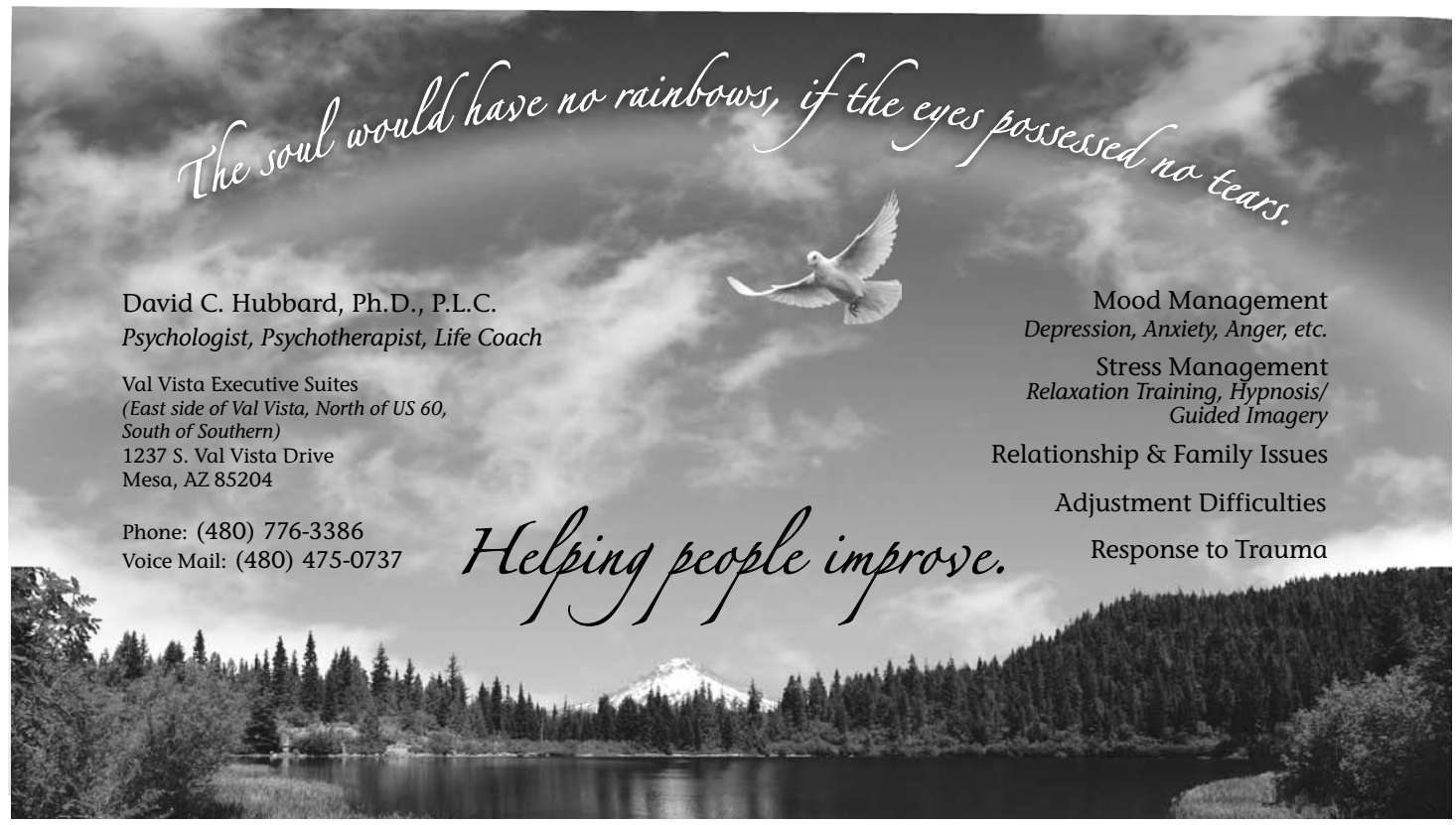
The Savior said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

According to the Savior, there is no room for gray.

Yet, most of us are guilty, at least to some degree, of what Elder Marion G. Romney alleged more than 55 years ago.

"Now there are those among us who are trying to serve the Lord without offending the devil."

I'll be the first to admit that as I walked around in the grayness of indecision, the choice didn't seem that clear. And, yet, it sure felt good to turn it down and to send back the unedited manuscript—all wrapped up in a nice, white envelop.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Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

It's about time and other considerations

Astoundingly—as a church membership we teach one another; though, for the most part, we are novices to the art of delivering a message. The tradition is clearly a growth opportunity for everyone. If this is our job, let's treat it as one.

As an observer, with a background in communications, I've accumulated some dos and don'ts—mostly from witnessing the don'ts—and a few tips regarding the mechanics.

Sacrament meeting talks: Very first thing—pass up giving details of how the bishopric asked you to speak, unless the experience competes as the greatest in your life. The subject is trite and eats into vital time for meaty messages. Never begin by confessing that you're not a good speaker and "cannot possibly fill up your time." When a speaker begins with that caveat, I brace myself: Invariably, the sincere soul not only takes his time, but that of the following speaker.

This amazing phenomena is explainable. With the deceiving belief that he or she is unable to speak for 12 minutes, the speaker pays little attention to how fast time actually flies at the pulpit. Thus, the person tends to adlib and over-expound. I've seen complete disasters. One husband, whose wife took up his time with her rambling, spoke long enough to say he'd forgive her, "will talk with her when we get home," and then turned the meeting back to the bishop in time for the closing song. We've all seen missionaries, those leaving and returning, left with minutes following an oblivious speaker. Time management failure is common and heavily impacts the quality of our meetings.

The problem is so easily fixed: Never, ever take a speaking assignment (or lesson, for that matter) without confirming your time allotment. Bishopric and auxiliary leaders are remiss when they don't give exact directions and time limits.

During preparation, practice out loud and clock your speech at least three times. Make sure adlibs of testimonies or stories are included. Make length notations in the margins for pacing and as a reminder to watch the time while speaking.

When using audience participation while teaching, your best bet is to refer constantly to the clock. In advance, identify segments to drop if need be. Perhaps assign a friend to give you a 10-minute, then a three-minute warning.

Staying within time limits is courtesy. It's as much a part of the gospel as is honesty. I've witnessed Gospel Doctrine teachers blatantly ignore the last bell and take another 10 minutes, week after week, cutting into the classes that follow. No one dare say a word in the spirit of the Spirit.

As for structure and formats: Web sites, like www.speaking-tips.com, are prolific with pointers. Search and learn. Remember, eye contact with your audience is a powerful connector. Personal—short, not long—stories carry great impact. Project oomph into your voice; emphasis and fluctuation keep your audience engaged.

Unfortunately, LDS speakers fall into monotone deliveries. Gifts of the spirit also call for enthusiasm. Showing energy in one's joy, or even sorrow, serves to touch, uplift and might even discourage text messaging by thoughtless audience members.

Speaking and teaching are our lifelong callings. To treat them casually will bring everything we fear about public expression. If you care enough, it's possible to do well, stay on time, and bless His flock according to the Plan.

Linda Turley-Hansen is a former, veteran Phoenix television anchor and is currently a syndicated newspaper columnist and a member of the Meadow View Ward in Gilbert, Arizona. She can be contacted at turleyhansen@lindastake.com

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Five sisters remember MESA HIGH'S "Rabbettes" tradition

Photo by Virginia Berg

The five Denham sisters, who grew up in Mesa, were all members of the Mesa High School "Rabbettes" marching squad and who all still live in Arizona, came together recently to share memories and renew friendships at a Rabbettes reunion. Shown here, left to right are Dorene Williams, Mrylene Johnston, Betty Walters, Ida Mae Stroschein and Beulah Martin.

By Julie Wallace
The Beehive

All five Denham sisters were "Rabbettes." That is, between 1948 and 1958, each of the five daughters of the late Harold and Emma Denham, took a turn as a member of Mesa High School's "Rabbette" marching squad.

Recently, the five sisters, and other former members of the group, relived fond memories at a "Rabbette" reunion in Mesa. The reunion, hosted by Virginia Berg and the Mesa Historical Society, paid tribute to the group's founder and driving force, Marjorie Entz, who is now deceased.

For many years, from 1948 until 1971, the Rabbettes marching squad was a tradition at Mesa High School, where the mascot is the Jackrabbit. The group—consisting of marchers, ropers, and baton twirlers—performed with the band, and it was considered a privilege to be chosen from among the many who tried out each year.

For the Denham sisters, the "Rabbette" tradition started with the oldest, Dorene Denham Williams, now a member of the Pinedale Ward, Show Low Stake.

Dorene performed with the Rabbettes in 1948, 1949, and 1950. As a roper, she did tricks, such as the "wedding ring" trick, twirling a 50-foot rope, while some of the other Rabbettes jumped in the middle of the "ring." Dorene says the trick made for a great finale. She remembers that she loved the uniforms and she felt a sense of pride to be part of the unique marching squad.

"It was fun to go to all the football games and perform at half times. We also marched in lots of parades," she says.

Myrlene Denham Johnston, now of the Stewart Ward in the Maricopa Stake, was next to follow the tradition, performing as a baton twirler in 1950, 1951, and 1952.

Following her was Betty Denham Walters, currently a member of the Meridian Ward, Apache Junction Stake, who participated with the group in 1951, 1952, and 1953. Betty also became a roper and says one of the highlights she remembers was going to Covina, California, to perform.

Ida Mae Denham Stroschein, now in the Meridian Ward, Apache Junction Stake, was a Rabbettes marcher in 1953 and 1954 and a line leader in 1955. She, too, remembers a trip to California.

"We started raising money a year ahead of time, and I remember it took four busses to make the trip with all the Rabbettes and Mesa High marching band members; after we performed, we had a sock hop for all who participated," she says.

Beulah Denham Martin, the youngest, who now lives in the Superior Branch, Globe Stake, was a Rabbette marcher in 1957 and then a roper in 1958.

She recalls, "They would do drills all the time; like—left turn, right turn, about face; and if you made a mistake you had to sit out."

The Rabbettes were disbanded in 1971 when Ms. Entz retired. Still, the Rabbette tradition lives on in the memories of five sisters and of the many others who enjoyed marching under the direction of Ms. Entz.

"We hope this [reunion] will become an annual event. Getting together like this will keep the memories alive," says Beulah.

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Photo courtesy of Cindy Williams

Cindy Williams shares her recently published children's book, "Chase McKay Didn't Get Up Today" with students at a Gilbert elementary school.

LDS Mom Publishes First CHILDREN'S BOOK

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

Cindy Williams, of the Catalina Ward, Gilbert Greenfield Stake, grew up with "aspirations of becoming a mermaid." Today, though she hasn't grown fins and turned into a mythical creature, Cindy has entered some fairly uncharted waters.

As a young child, she wrote stories, often about mermaids.

"My favorite part of being a writer is that I love getting lost in the worlds I create." In the "real world," as she puts it, she graduated from Brigham Young University in public relations with an emphasis in broadcast news. Ten years ago, she began studying the harp.

"I always wanted to play the harp, and I realized that I was the only one stopping me," she explains. Now, she plays professionally; does some private teaching; and has a CD, "Dragon Songs," coming out in the summer of 2009.

Cindy is married to Jeff, who currently serves as Catalina Ward's bishop, and they have five children. One, named

Continued on pg. 50

Mormons Make Their Voices Heard — Digitally

In an age when the Internet has become a primary way that people communicate, three young Latter-day Saint women endeavor to discuss their faith. They don't do it in their Sunday best sitting in a church house; they do it sitting in front of a Web cam with a high-speed connection.

"We wanted to create a space where people could come to discuss religion," one said.

"The response [to the videos] has been great. People are talking. We wanted people to talk. You don't have to agree with me, but just creating the space to talk has been beneficial."

In an effort to create more "space for talking," many members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are making their voices heard digitally.

West Allen, a Church member from Las Vegas, organized an activity designed to allow young members of Mormon congregations near his home to share their beliefs on video, later to be posted online. Allen hopes the footage will have a positive impact on those that see it.

"In my mind, watching something on the Internet can be as effective as meeting face to face," Allen said. "People can feel when something is genuine."

Creating a forum to discuss religion is a growing phenomenon on the Internet. Like many issues before it, religion has become a topic of discussion for scholars and "YouTubers" alike.

According to a recent CNN report, approximately 79 million users watched over three billion videos on YouTube.com, a video sharing Web site, in January of 2008. In addition, as of early April 2008, there were more than 84 million videos available for viewing on the site.

Elder M. Russell Ballard, a senior leader in the Church, emphasized, in a recent speech given on the Brigham Young University-Hawaii campus, how important it is for members to join the ongoing online conversations concerning religion.

He has also noted that Church members should express their feelings and beliefs but that they of course should not present themselves as speaking officially for the Church.

In response to Elder Ballard's remarks, many members of the Church are doing what they can to use the Internet as a tool to communicate with friends and strangers alike by creating blogs and posting materials on video sharing sites.

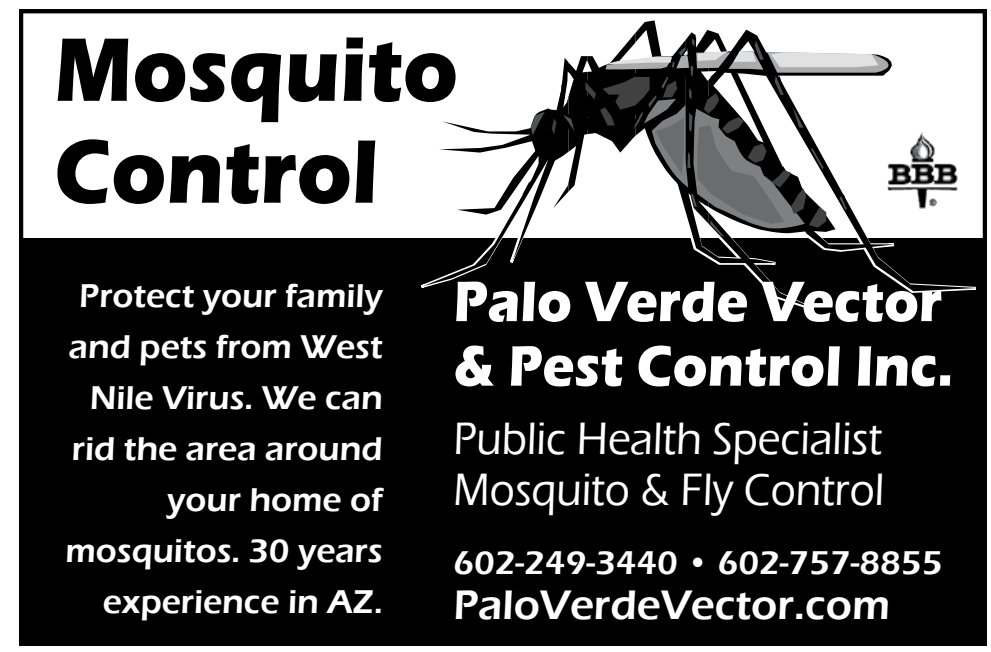
"My goal is to put the right information out there. I want to do what I can to dispel the misconceptions and misunderstanding concerning our faith," says David Grow, an active YouTuber and member of the Church. "I have received hundreds of messages from Church members and those of other faiths saying they are glad I put up the videos."

Those posting video emphasized the key roles accuracy and authenticity play when discussing religion online.

They say that though some may not agree with all aspects of your theology, if you check your facts and share with honesty and with dignified expressions of personal belief, most people will respect that. Further, they stress the necessity for a kind of "credible openness" that is expected online.

"Speak on what you know," Las Vegas youth leader West Allen says. "Make it personal. They [members] should share how the Church or the gospel has personally benefitted them and their families."

Many Mormons using video sharing sites are tapping into the resources available to them on the official Web pages of the Church, including the Church's Newsroom Web site.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In The Mommy Zone...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

Summer Joy

Today is my "official" due date. 40 weeks of gestation. 40 weeks of vigilant obstetric visits. 40 weeks of being poked, prodded, tested and measured. 40 weeks of watchful nutrition, of worried preparation and of careful concern. 40 weeks of pregnancy, with its morning sickness, backaches, protruding belly, and exhaustion, but also with its elation and excitement of the impending delivery day.

I can't believe this date, highlighted in bright red marker on my daily planner, is already here! But alas, 10 days ago, our brand-new baby was born early, entering this world at a sleepy 2:31a.m.

With big, blue slate eyes, a dimpled birth mark just above the mouth, sporting a headful of blonde hair and a drowsy countenance, I guess our newborn just couldn't wait to meet our family of seven. Now, as I sit here, 10 days later, I can scarcely believe the miracle that has taken place in our lives, one that has brought much joy and happiness to our home.

As I gaze upon baby number six, watching the peaceful slumber and the rhythmic rise and fall of breathing, I am flooded with memories and emotions. I remember the births of our five previous children and long for the days when I swaddled them tight. I remember the sleepless nights, the baby-fresh smell of their skin, the way they grasped my finger with their tiny fists, and their wide-eyed wonderment when I sang to them. My mind is reeling with precious memories. I seem to have forgotten how time flies and how tiny babes in arms grow up so quickly.

Newborn babes are like a breath of fresh air. They are miracles in and of themselves. With ten tiny toes and ten tiny fingers, precious folds of baby-scented skin, audible coos and gurgles and the most wonderful ways of making us family members fall instantly in love with their innocence, they are truly miraculous in many ways.

Newborns seem so fragile and vulnerable. They soak up everything in their surroundings like a sponge. I have watched our newborn gaze up, trying to lift a wobbly head, to study the faces of our older children. It is such a treat to see all of them take in the newness and purity of their brand-new sibling, to recognize this precious gift, fresh from heaven. There seems to be a more quiet and serene atmosphere in our home since the baby arrived, as they each beg to take turns holding the newest member of our family.

But as I sit here, watching my heaven-sent newborn's rhythmic breathing and peaceful slumber, I am also reminded of the eternal worth of souls and of how every pregnancy pain, worry, doubt and fear was worth all of my efforts. It is at times such as this that makes motherhood so remarkable and awe-inspiring.

In my experience, there is no other job as emotionally and physically taxing as that of new motherhood. The clock seems to be nonexistent, as my newborn and I struggle with getting the hang of our new schedule and routine. This job is not confined to eight hours a day, five days a week, but 24 hours a day, seven days a week, without lunch hours or breaks in between.

But also in my experience, I have found no other job or employment as satisfying or rewarding as bringing a child into this world. Motherhood has benefits far beyond measure, as we mothers strive to do our best to nurture, raise, teach, mentor and love those children we are blessed to bear.

These benefits are as tangible as a baby's first smile or a baby's first word. Benefits that include a lifetime of hugs and kisses and a world of wonder and amazement as baby discovers the miracles of life that surround him.

A summer joy has graced our home in a way like no other. Baby number six has definitely brought much delight and happiness to our family. What a blessing we have been given. This precious newborn is a priceless treasure, our own tiny bit of heaven, one that makes our family of eight now complete.

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with
Jill B. Adair

Emergency Preparedness

Preparedness, when properly pursued, is a way of life, not a sudden, spectacular program. Yet, while preparedness may always be in the back of our minds, when we hear of disasters throughout the country and around the world, we may wonder, "How prepared are we?"

The Internet offers the best of emergency planning and preparedness. Take some time to peruse the information provided, follow-up on the action items, and then be assured that you and your family will be better prepared in case of an emergency.

American Red Cross, www.redcross.org/services, offers "Four Steps to Safety" (click on Be Prepared, then Family Disaster Planning). The site outlines a disaster supplies kit and necessities of food, water, first aid kit, etc. You'll find tips for storing water and how to treat water to make it drinkable as well as how to safeguard your home and store food, how to cook if the electricity goes off, and important disaster supplies to keep on-hand.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's official Web site, www.fema.gov/areyouready, provides "Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness," FEMA's most comprehensive source on individual, family and community preparedness. The guide, in English or Spanish, provides current information on basic preparedness, natural disasters, technological hazards, terrorism and recovering from disaster. Other online publications are "Helping Children Cope with Disaster" and "Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs." Use the "Possible Hazards and Emergencies Worksheet" to identify potential hazards where you live and create a plan to reduce your family's risk. Through Windows Media Player you can watch the "Getting Ready for Disaster" DVD. There is a link to the Insurance Information Institute, www.iii.org, for information on determining if your home is adequately insured.

Ready.gov, a Web site run by the Department of Homeland Security, is completely dedicated to helping Americans prepare for any type of emergency or disaster. Specific sections include preparing your pets for emergencies and special considerations older Americans should make in emergency preparedness.

Providentliving.org provides counsel from LDS leaders, helpful information on food storage and resources for self-reliance. At www.azdohs.gov/Citizens_Help.htm, a helpful and easy-to-understand chart is "What Should Your Emergency Pantry Look Like?"

Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management, www.maricopa.gov/Emerg_Mgt/prepare_house.aspx, has a printable, wallet-size three-step emergency plan card (English or Spanish) with reminders on what to grab in an evacuation.

Arizona Department of Homeland Security, www.azdohs.gov/KidsPage.htm, links to many governmental agencies that have fun, interactive pages to help children understand and prepare for disasters.

At Arizona's emergency Web site, www.az211.gov, view state and local emergency bulletins and alerts that are vital in times of disaster or emergency. More local information can be found at Arizona Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Web site, www.justincasearizona.com.

Think you're prepared? Take a Readiness Quotient quiz at www.whatsyourrq.org. Check out "Tips and Tools to Increase Your RQ." The site stresses the importance of creating a family communications plan as your family may not be together when disaster strikes. Discuss where family members will meet, how they will communicate and who is the point of contact.

Editor's Note: This column is designed to provide Beehive readers with timesaving direction and ideas for safely and easily surfing the Internet. To suggest a topic for a future column or to share an interesting Web site with others, e-mail: 5adair@cox.net.

Photo courtesy Tim Filicia

Since 2001, when Tim Filicia first started the show choir, LIGHT, the group has more than doubled in size and has done much to help various causes, while, at the same time, earning a strong reputation in show choir competition.

LOCAL GROUP SHEDS LIGHT ACROSS THE COUNTRY

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Their name—LIGHT—aptly reflects the exceptional, star-quality talent of this prestigious show choir. It's also a fitting tribute to the shining example, the brilliance of character, of each of the group's members.

Says founder and director, Tim Filicia, "LIGHT is an acronym," and the young men and women who sing and dance with LIGHT, exude the principles it stands for: "Learn from everyone, Inspire others, Give selflessly of time and energy, Honor and love those around us, and Talents are to share."

LIGHT was started in 2002.

"The reason," Tim explains, "is that

Continued on pg. 50

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FREE EXAMS FOR MISSIONARIES

"Les Miserables" & "Sound of Music"

top the Tuacahn lineup this summer

The all-time favorites of "The Sound of Music," pictured above, as well as "Les Miserables" and "Big River," will be presented at Tuacahn Amphitheatre and Center for the Arts, in its spectacular St. George location, this summer

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The location itself is breathtaking and awe-inspiring. Add to that a 1920-seat outdoor theater, 330-seat indoor theater, a dance studio, recital hall, studios, classrooms and shops filled with costumes, scenes and gifts. Next, stage there some of the most well-known productions, complete with highly acclaimed actors, musicians and production crews—and what you have is Tuacahn Amphitheatre and Center for the Arts, where this summer's offerings of "Les Miserables," "Sound of Music" and more are already generating well-satisfied audiences.

Gracing an 80-acre parcel in St. George's Padre Canyon, Tuacahn Center for the Arts began with the vision of Orval Hafen, who, at the turn of the 20th century, built a cabin below the picturesque red rocks.

Hafen's dream that others might one day "share this beauty and drink of the inspiration that is here" began to take shape in 1993, when noted playwright and St. George resident, Doug Stewart, searching for a location for an outdoor amphitheatre, happened upon the spot. Under Doug's direction, the ambitious, $23 million project was completed in 1995.

Tuacahn quickly became known for its annual presentation of the original musical, "Utah!"— thrilling audiences with pyrotechnics, live animals and a re-creation of a flash flood, with over 60,000 gallons of water pouring across the stage.

In 1999, Tuacahn introduced its new direction, billing both "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, for its "Summer Festival of Theatre."

"The Tuacahn Amphitheatre provides a unique setting for these Broadway favorites that cannot be duplicated anywhere else," says Kevin Warnick, Tuacahn's Managing Director.

Since then, Tuacahn continues to produce such Broadway greats as "Oklahoma!" "The Sound of Music," "Lion King," "The King and I," "Beauty and the Beast" and more.

In addition, Tuacahn concerts have showcased The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, The Vienna Boys Choir, The Kingston Trio, Merle Haggard, Kenny Rogers, The Osmond Brothers, Diamond Rio and other noted performers.

Today, Tuacahn's summer theatre has expanded into the fall, its concerts continue to satisfy thousands, and its annual Festival of Lights during the Christmas season has become a community tradition.

True to its focus on both entertainment and education, in 1999, Tuacahn opened Utah's first public charter high school. The Tuacahn High School for Performing Arts and Technology combines a college preparatory curriculum with an emphasis in music, drama, dance and computer technology.

To learn more or to purchase tickets for "Les Miserables," "The Sound of Music" or "Big River," visit www.tuacahn.org or call 1-800-746-9882.

LDS Member of BRAVEHEART NETWORK helps rebuild in New Orleans

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

Inspired by Oprah's "Big Give" TV show, Dr. Elle Drake, a nationally acclaimed motivational speaker, raised $100,000 in 24 hours to help repair homes in New Orleans. Thus began the "Inspired You Inc. 2008 National Tour." Those members of Dr. Drake's "Braveheart Network" who helped generate the most funds received airfare to New Orleans to be part of the team. Debbie Lumby was on that flight.

As a wife, mother and member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Debbie has always tried to

Continued on pg. 52

The Land of Refuge

A documentary DVD about

The Settlement of the Mormon Colonies in Mexico

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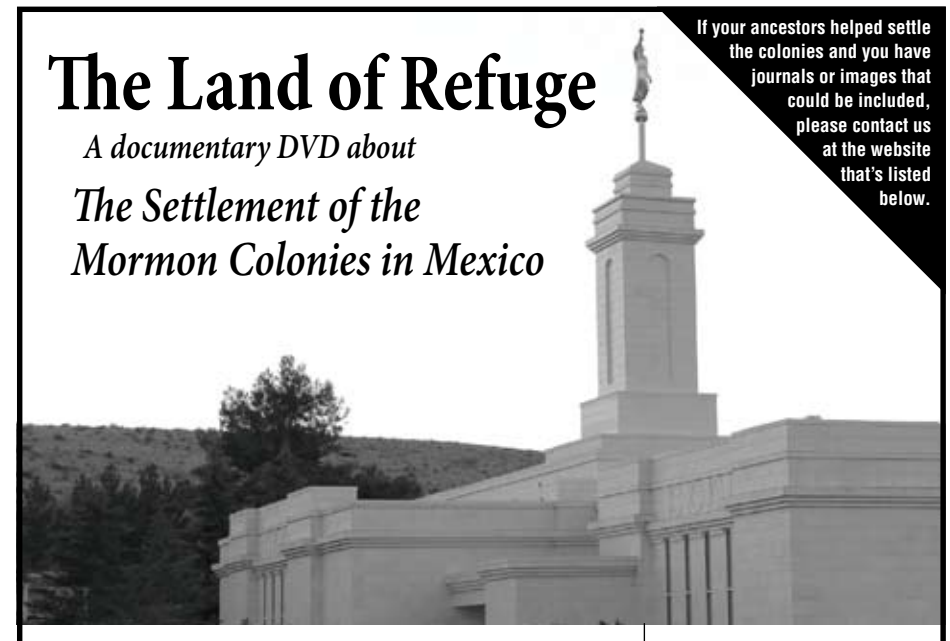

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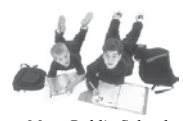

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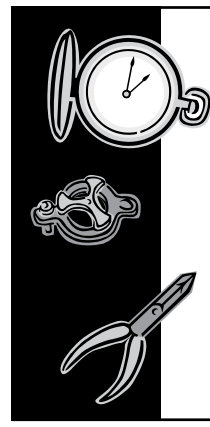

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"SIPPABLE SERUM" provides safe and simple alternative for allergy sufferers

By Rachel Faas Trim
The Beehive

Photo courtesy of Dr. Stuart Agren

At his Mesa-based Family Allergy Clinic, Dr. Stuart Agren--a leader in the introduction of the easy, effective, injection-free allergy treatment known as sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT)--teaches patients how to dose and self-administer the serum.

For the past two decades, Mesa allergist, Stuart Agren, MD, has offered relief from allergy symptoms in the form of a revolutionary "sippable serum." The injection-free alternative, a sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT), is absorbed as a liquid dosage into the bloodstream through the tiny capillaries under the tongue. According to Dr. Agren, the treatment is appropriate for all ages, even infants. SLIT is easily self-administered by the patient or by parents of younger allergy sufferers.

Dr. Agren says, "Kids can have allergies from the youngest ages; but, they have to suffer it out because most doctors won't treat them until they are around age seven. This program is so simple and safe. Patients can get the help they need regardless of their age."

Dr. Agren says SLIT is filling a need across the country, proving to be an easy and effective treatment for all patients, particularly those who were previously unable to tolerate a rigorous "shot regimen" or make time for frequent visits to the doctor. The portability of SLIT offers convenience for frequent travelers and winter visitors as well.

Dr. Agren, a leader in the introduction of SLIT to Arizona, first incorporated it into his Mesa-based Family Allergy Clinic in the mid-1980s. With thousands of satisfied patients to his credit, he says 80 percent of allergy patients and 90 percent of asthma patients experience relief, typically within three months. Traditional injection therapy usually requires one to two years of treatment before patients show improvement.

Dr. Agren is most pleased when he sees long-time and serious allergy sufferers return to good health and comfort because of the serum treatment. Patient Gary Sweetnam, of the Estate Groves Ward, Citrus Heights Stake, was one such patient.

Gary suffered with a chronic cough for 40 years. His cough kept him and his wife up in the night. Co-workers and friends regularly expressed concern about his cough and urged him to seek treatment. Though he had visited many doctors and tried various medications, the chronic cough continued.

Then, Gary sought help from Dr. Agren at the Family Allergy Clinic. After several weeks on the serum, the coughing ceased. Two years after starting treatment, Sweetnam still remains cough-free.

Dr. Agren and his wife, Pam, members of the Estate Groves Ward, Citrus Heights Stake, have seven children and 15 grandchildren.

The Family Allergy Clinic is located at 3048 E. Baseline Road, Ste. 122. For more information, call 480-827-9945, visit www.familyallergyclinic.com or contact Dr. Agren at familyallergyclinic@hotmail.com.

Local Group Sheds Light
Continued from pg. 46

the high schools had great music programs, but none offered both the singing and dance kind of thing, where kids could do both."

That first year, LIGHT included 16 performers. Since then, it has more than doubled in size, with 48 young people from six high schools in four different school districts, performing with the group last year.

"We have a great team of choreographers, with my daughter, Liz Stowell, as the main choreographer," Tim says. "We also have an incredible parent group."

LIGHT, whose primary objective is to "share the gospel through music," also has grown in terms of what they accomplish and the good they do.

What began with a few benefit concerts in the Valley has expanded and, today, LIGHT has played all over the country, helping to raise money for various causes, including cancer, Down syndrome and Alzheimer's, as well as for school drama programs in California, Utah, Illinois and other parts of the country.

"We want to entertain," Tim says, "but, we're always looking, thinking, 'What else can we do to further someone's cause?'"

While working to lift and benefit others, they're also working to improve themselves, competing in show choir competitions from Los Angeles to New York. In the prestigious Branson competition, they were first runner up two years ago and second runner up last year.

"At this level of competition, the top performers are only separated by a half to a quarter point," Brother Filicia says. "To finish in the top three means you're really doing something."

Tim says the group is great on many levels.

"These kids not just talented, they're good people with good values."

The true mettle of the group and its founder showed last year, as they faced a foundation-shaking event when Brother Filicia's son, 26-year-old, Tim, Jr., died in a car accident.

"My son was the co-founder with me and Michele Baer. Eighty kids from all over the country came to the funeral to sing for Tim," Brother Filicia says.

That act of service and representation one of the group's favorite songs, "It's Okay to Smile," propelled them forward into even greater things.

"Since Tim has been gone, so many positive things have happened with the group. Over the last six to eight months, things have gone from 'okay' to where we almost can't control what's going on."

LIGHT has opened for well-known groups and participated in events, like the Mrs. America Pageant on national television and the National Anthem Project in Washington, D.C. Recently, they were invited to participate in the Presidential Inauguration in January.

"We'll do fundraisers and look for sponsors, things like that. It's quite expensive, but it's quite an honor," Brother Filicia says.

In the meantime, the group will continue presenting free concerts with their summer camp group, Ambassadors of Light, as well as firesides whenever they have an opportunity.

"Our firesides are centered on Christ. They're wonderful," Tim says. This year's fireside, "Born to Testify," is based on a song written by Michele Baer.

Tim, a member of the Emerald Acres Ward, Mesa South Stake, says although the group is cast for this year, "We're always interested in new talent."

To learn more, see their schedule or inquire about having LIGHT participate in an event, visit www.lightinternationalinc.org or call Tim Filicia at 480-227-9402.

LDS Mom Publishes
Continued from pg. 44

Chase McKay, is the inspiration behind her recently published book, "Chase McKay Didn't Get up Today."

Sister Williams remembers the morning of September 15, 2005.

"Five-year-old Chase McKay was a sleepyhead that morning when I tried to wake him to get ready for kindergarten. I lifted him onto my lap, peeled off his jammies, and wiggled his clothes on him, while he lay, lax in my arms, pretending to be sound asleep. I sang to him, gave him hugs, kisses, and snuggled him. He kept his eyes closed and had a sweet little smile on his face. He was hoping not to have to go to school by faking sleep. This little rhyming story just popped into my head as I sat on his bed and cuddled him."

Cindy has taken her book to several local schools, where she has shared the story with hundreds of children. With each book purchase, she includes a handout of suggestions for teaching moments and lessons about work before play, being responsible, and about choices and consequences. Cindy is anticipating a book tour this fall to her childhood home state of Utah. She plans to visit about 20 schools, including her own elementary school. "It is really exciting to go home where it all began and be able to give back," she says.

Cindy currently is working on other children's books, including two more about her son: "Chase McKay's Accident Day" and "Chase McKay Finds a Stray." She calls them "snuggle and giggle books, perfect for bedtime or anytime."

Cindy also is working on a novel, "Thundertail's Tail: The Legend," which will be first in a trilogy that take place in New Dragonland, a fictional place Cindy says is based on Arizona's Superstition Mountains.

For more about Sister Williams or to purchase her book, visit www.cindyrwilliams.com.

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Young Men and Young Women from Val Vista Stake walk Trail of Faith

Photo by Marian Skousen

For the Stake Youth Conference, 275 young men and young women from the Val Vista Stake participated in a trek that taught them valuable lessons about relying on one another, honoring their heritage and committing their lives to Christ.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

In May, just days after school let out for summer, 275 young men and young women from the Gilbert Val Vista Stake left behind modern conveniences, cell phones and iPods; donned pioneer-style clothing; and set out on a trek, pulling handcarts and walking nearly 16 miles that first day before reaching camp at 11 p.m.

For the three-day Stake Youth Conference, youth were divided into families led by adult leaders called to be "mas" and "pas;" and those families comprised companies. The mini-reenactment of the pioneer experience was both physically demanding and faith-promoting.

"It was probably one of the hardest things I've every done," says Travis Wells, a "pa" from Park Village Ward, "but, it helped me regain focus in my life. It helped me to realize how blessed we are."

Second counselor in the Stake Presidency, Dennis McCellan, says, "I have a whole new appreciation for the handcart pioneers. It was rugged and tough, but they kept going. They made decisions to move forward in faith." Similarly, he says, "Many decisions were made on this trek to commit to follow the Savior."

Marylee Jones, who, with her husband, Blaine, served as Youth Conference specialists, says, "As we planned, we didn't have a clear picture of all that would occur. We hoped the youth would have special experiences and would bond with other youth in the stake. We challenged them to learn about the pioneers and what they went through. But, there was so much more they learned than what we anticipated."

She says the trek's dramatic impact was the result of the combination of elements—of "equalizing" the youth by taking away anything that would detract from the pioneer feeling, of pushing physical limits, of helping the youth prepare to feel the spirit, and of providing opportunities for them to pull together.

Along with the hard work, the young men and woman got a taste of pioneer-style fun as they participated in archery, shooting black powder rifles, hatchet throwing and, even washing each other's hair. They formed company bands, each company putting a musical number together on the spot; and had a "hoedown" dance.

They even had the experience of killing and dressing chickens for dinner.

"It's been amazing," says Sister Jones. "I've gotten a little different perspective as I saw all the work and saw all the people who came forth to help."

Cerise Nelson, Stake Young Women's President, and Mark Kitterman, second counselor in the Stake Young Men's Presidency, helped direct the Youth Conference planning, while Stake President Lothaire Bluth, served as trail boss, and Richard Andrews, a counselor in the Voyager Ward bishopric was assistant trail boss. Park Village Ward members, Ramona Hooker, took care of any medical needs, while Ken Hooker, led the trek choir.

"The mas and pas were really key," says Sister Jones. "The rest of us kind of created and set up the mechanics, but, just like in real life, the mas and pas were there doing the work, teaching concepts and helping the youth have an amazing experience."

Diana Mooney,14, of Park Village Ward, particularly enjoyed the "solo time. We went somewhere on the hillside to think or read scriptures. It was the strongest I have ever felt the spirit."

"The trek was one of the best experiences of my life," she adds

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LDS Member of Braveheart
Continued from pg. 47

help others, improve herself and make this world a better place. The mother of three children and grandmother to four, Debbie runs a home-based business and she and her husband, Mike, own a concrete and decorative tile company. They are members of the Pleasant 2nd Ward, Chandler West Stake.

Debbie has been part of the "Braveheart Network" for about three years and has been inspired and motivated by her mentor's example. During the tour, she was able to see that inspiration passed on to others as they stopped at numerous community youth centers where Dr. Drake shared words of encouragement and tips on goal setting.

Sister Lumby says, "I was thrilled to discover that my efforts, along with thousands of other men and women, can positively affect the lives of people everywhere, particularly the youth."

She was excited to be in New Orleans when the Braveheart Network presented a check for over $100,000 to the Bernard Project to be used for the rebuilding of homes and, also, to roll up her sleeves to help with the refurbishing of 10 homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Photo courtesy of Debbie Lumby

In a project inspired by Oprah's "Big Give" TV show, Debbie Lumby, (front row, third from the right) of the Chandler West Stake, participated with other volunteers to help repair 10 homes in New Orleans.

On April 11 and 12, her team worked in "Area 9," one of the worst hit areas. Other groups came to participate, some from as far away as Australia. Debbie was the only Latter-day Saint among them.

"I had no idea what things were really like," Debbie explains. "When I saw things firsthand and met the man whose home we were working on and heard his story, I began to realize what these people had been through. It hit me really hard.

The biggest impact on me was driving through the neighborhood and seeing a big 'X' painted on the wall. This meant that the home had been checked. If there was also a '0' there were no dead bodies found. It was such a humbling experience."

"I've never worked so hard," Debbie recalls. "Personally, I don't like house painting. I hire my painting out. But, there I was, sweating like crazy in all that humidity. At first I was doing it wrong; using a roller without the handle. The next day, someone showed me the right way to do it and I found it much easier. I called my husband and said, 'You will not believe what I am doing.' He got a pretty good laugh, especially when I told him about the warning we were given about snakes and crocodiles surrounding the house, as we were near a canal."

Debbie adds, "I came back with such a different feeling of gratitude. I used to complain about the heat here but we really don't have much to complain about. It seems trivial when you see the loss of lives and homes; to see the crumbled buildings, the watermarks and to talk to the people there.

On the flight to New Orleans, I spoke to a young woman who was away at school when it happened and she couldn't even get a hold of her family to find out if they were okay. I can't even imagine what that would feel like. It made me appreciate Arizona and life itself."

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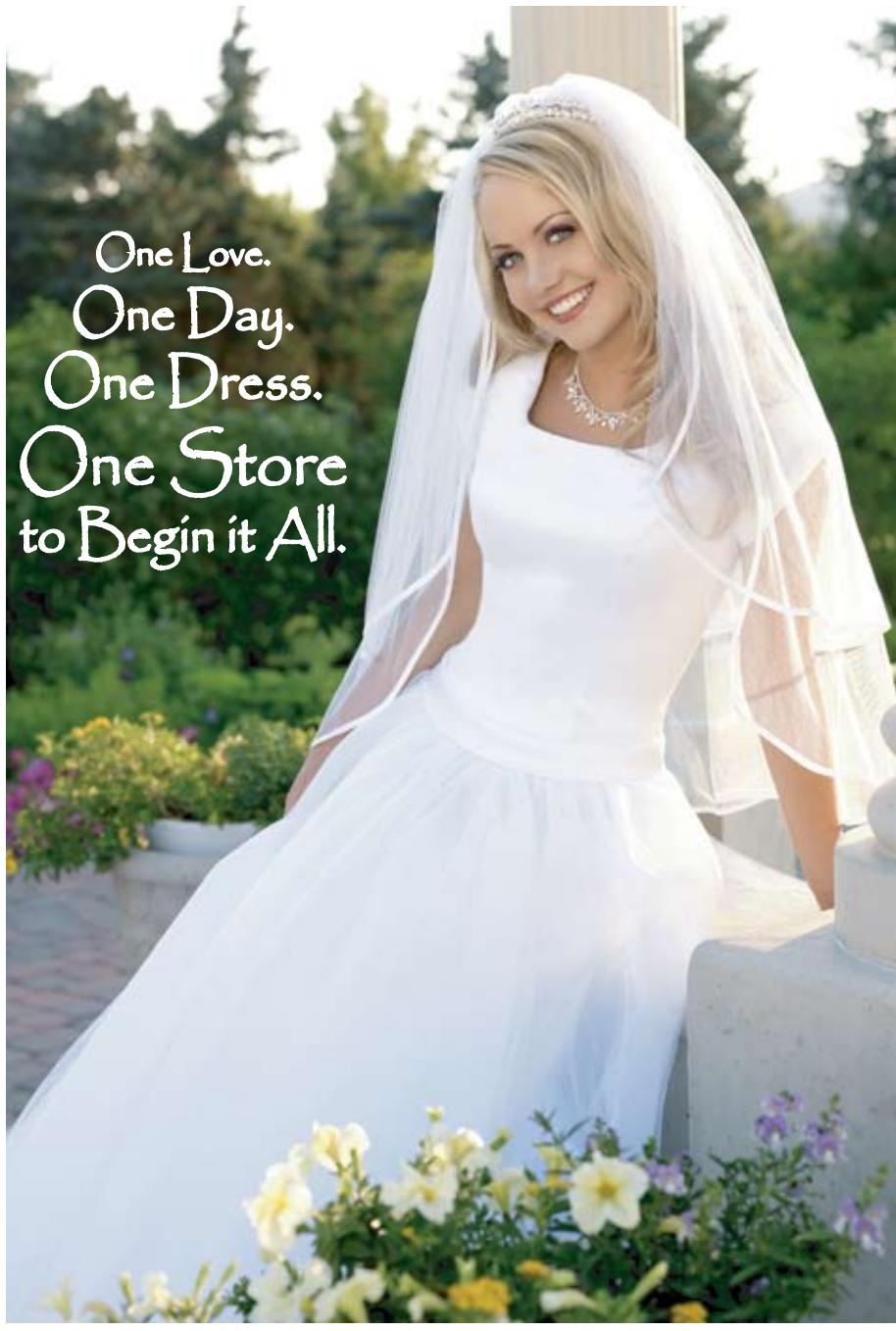

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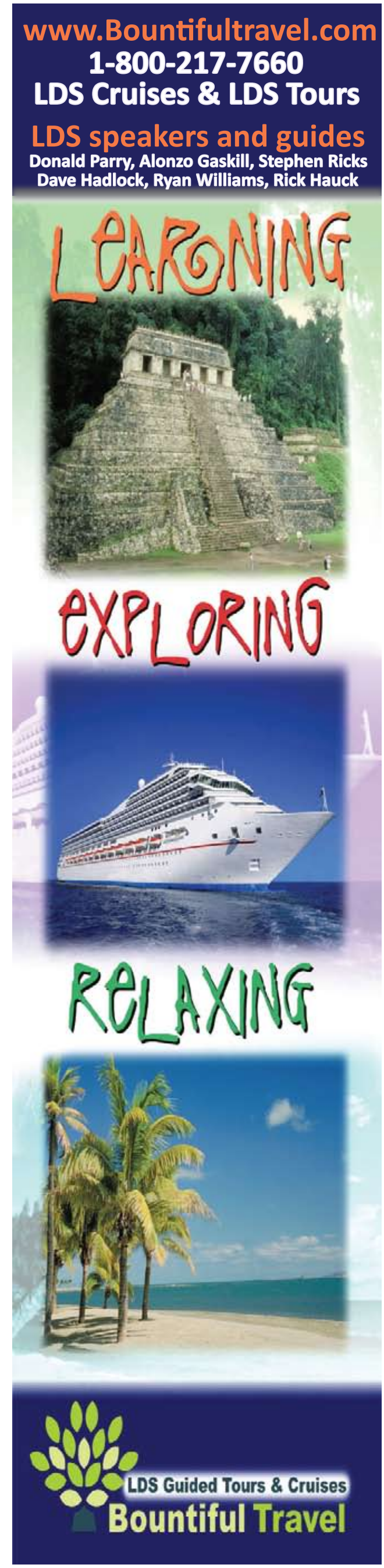

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The Courtyard Towers in Mesa is an exciting senior living community where area seniors discover the best possible choice in independent senior living, assisted living, Alzheimer's and dementia care.

Our philosophy is based upon resident choice, dignity, privacy, individuality and an opportunity to remain independent.

We take a personalized approach, expanding our services when needed, to meet the needs of each resident right in their own apartment.

We also offer our residents an opportunity to make new friendships and enjoy life to the fullest, with a variety of activities and opportunities to socialize with other residents in the cultural heart of downtown Mesa.

Courtyard Towers

Senior Living Community

More than just a great place to live,
Courtyard Towers is a great way to live!

For more information or to schedule a personal tour, please call

480•649•3000

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